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# THE TIMES

35p

No. 66,158

WEDNESDAY MARCH 25 1998

http://www.the-times.co.uk

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### Court victory for doctor's family

# Man branded a killer in civil ruling

By MICHAEL HORNSNELL

A MAN who has never been charged or appeared in a criminal court was branded a murderer by a judge yesterday in a ruling that made legal history.

Mr Justice Allott said that the family of Joan Francisco, a gynaecologist who was strangled in her flat on Boxing Day, 1994, had proved during a three-week High Court hearing that she was murdered by Tony Diedrick, an obsessive former boyfriend who was questioned about the killing but released without charge.

The family had launched an civil action for £50,000 damages for assault and battery against Diedrick and were told by the judge that they had an overwhelming case. He said that he was satisfied that Diedrick had "struck and then strangled" the American-born doctor "by hand and by ligature".

Diedrick was not in court to hear the judgment, but was heard at his home in Maids Vale last night. His solicitors said that he would appeal, but made no other comment.

Bereaved families have turned to the civil courts before when they have been disappointed by the outcome of criminal proceedings, but this was the first time that a man had been tried and found guilty in such a fashion without a preceding trial.

In the only comparable case, Michael Brookes was jailed for the murder of 16-year-old Lynn Siddons after her family's civil action ended with a £10,000 damages award. Brookes's teenage

stepson had originally stood trial and been acquitted.

The CPS is now under pressure to bring charges against Diedrick, an unemployed computer studies graduate. Murder squad detectives said that they would be reassessing the evidence and a spokesman for the CPS promised to consider the judge's comments very carefully. Solicitors for Dr Francisco's family said that if it still chose not to prosecute, they would challenge the decision through judicial review proceedings.

Even so, the family may still be no nearer a criminal conviction that would send 38-year-old Diedrick to jail. Before launching a prosecution, the CPS must be satisfied

Obsessive boyfriend... 3

that there is more than a 50 per cent chance of securing a conviction. And if the case did come to trial, there would be a stiffer test of proof - beyond reasonable doubt - than the "balance of probabilities" that is needed to satisfy a civil court.

Mr Justice Allott said yesterday that he had decided to determine the case on the civil standard of proof, but he added that he was bearing in mind that the allegation was of the utmost gravity and could be established only by truly cogent evidence. Announcing his decision, he said: "This is a dreadful judgment to have to press on any man, and not one which I have come

to without the most anxious consideration, but I find the assault and battery alleged - in effect the murder - to have been proved."

The court had been told that Diedrick had stalked 27-year-old Dr Francisco for months out of a "violent and perverted obsession" before strangling her with a vacuum cleaner flex at her flat in St John's Wood, West London, when his obsession reached "terminal crisis".

Dr Francisco's family had called 31 witnesses to prove that there was compelling circumstantial evidence against Diedrick, who declined to give evidence in his defence.

Of that decision, the judge said yesterday: "If the defendant did not kill the deceased, I deem it incredible that he would not seize the opportunity to declare his innocence rather than shelter behind a perceived tactical advantage."

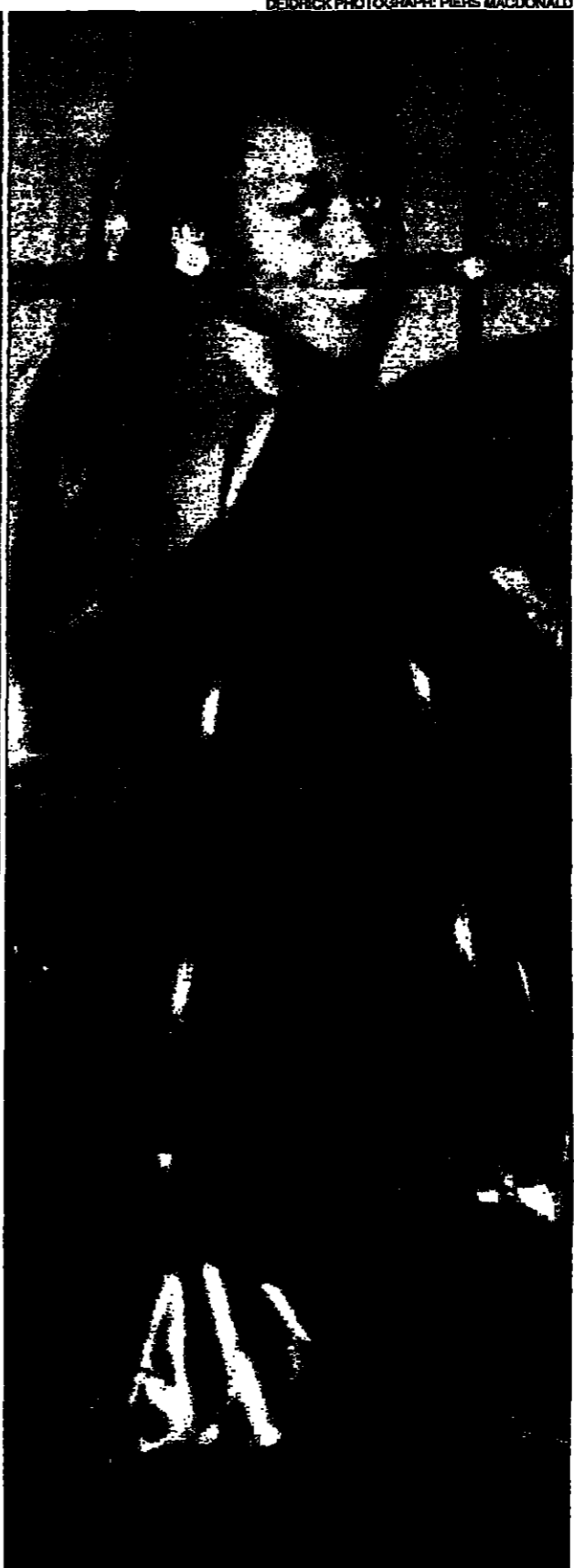
"The effect of that failure is that a prima facie case becomes a very strong, or even overwhelming case and I hold that the plaintiff has discharged the burden of proof upon which I have directed myself."

Mr Justice Allott also said in his 41-page judgment that the family had established that Diedrick was obsessed by Dr Francisco and regularly stalked her home; that he believed she was about to leave for America for good and was desperate to speak to her on the day she died; and that he had demonstrated explosive violence in a comparable

Continued on page 3, col 1



Tony Diedrick, seen arriving at the court during the case. Joan Francisco was found strangled in her flat



## MPs in France applaud fluent Blair

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

TONY BLAIR yesterday delivered a speech to the French parliament in which he pressed the three buttons most likely to endear him to French hearts: he praised actress Juliette Binoche; he teased his French political counterparts and, most remarkably, he spoke in a French that did not mangle the language of Molière beyond recognition.

In the first ever speech by a British Prime Minister to the French National Assembly, Mr Blair spoke for 40 minutes with barely a stumble, to the un concealed astonishment of his listeners who have come to expect their language to be merrily butchered by British visitors.

The Prime Minister's fluency sent some MPs into linguistic overdrive. "Marvellous, brilliant, astonishing, exceptional, elegant," said Jack Lang, a former socialist culture minister, when asked to comment on Mr Blair's command of the language.

Less star-struck critics pointed out, however, that as the speech progressed and fatigue began to set in, the meaning of Mr Blair's words became increasingly obscured by an English accent.

Summoning up his youthful memories as a bartender in Paris, the Prime Minister served up a carefully blended cocktail of agreeable verb endings, correct genders and reverberating Rs, complete with a dollop of emphatic gallic hand gestures.

Joshing his socialist hosts, Mr Blair recalled how, in those bartending days, he had been told to put his tips in the till until he discovered he was the only barman to do so. "That was my first lesson in Continued on page 2, col 1

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Leading article, page 19

## Child gunmen shoot 13 in Arkansas

AT least one person was killed and 12 others injured last night when camouflaged gunmen opened fire on students as they assembled outside an Arkansas school during a fire alarm (Tom Rhodes writes).

Wayne Jordan of the Arkansas State police said that two people were in custody. He confirmed that one person was killed in the attack at Jonesboro but would not say whether it was a child or teacher. The suspects were aged between 11 and 15 and most of the injured were pupils.

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## Hunt for black teenager's killers 'clouded by racism'

By ADRIAN LEE

RACISM "both conscious and subconscious" permeated the investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, police missed leads, bungled searches and ignored vital information from the public, a judicial inquiry was told yesterday.

Less than 24 hours after Stephen, 18, fell dying from stab wounds near a south London bus stop, detectives had the names of four of the five prime suspects. Within two weeks 26 sources had named members of a white gang, known locally as the Krays.

But Neil Acourt, his brother Jamie, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight and David Norris, then aged 16 and 17, were not arrested for three crucial weeks. In all, police made 28 mistakes, it was alleged.

At the heart of the case was not merely incompetence but racism, Michael Mansfield, QC, for the victim's parents, told the reopened hearing. Stephen - stabbed in an Etham street on April 22, 1993 - was black.

"The magnitude of the failure cannot, in this case, be explained by mere incompetence or lack of dedication by senior officers... or woeful under-resourcing. So much was missed by so many that deeper forces and causes must be considered," Mr Mansfield said.

He added that "racism both conscious and subconscious, permeated the investigation". One question had to be addressed, he said. "Was the investigation ever intended to result in a successful prosecution?"

Five youths were charged. But Neil Acourt, Dobson and Knight faced an Old Bailey murder trial in an unsuccessful private prosecution, brought by Stephen's parents. The first part of the hearing, expected to last eight weeks, aims to establish what went wrong during the investigation, and why. A second will consider lessons to be learnt.

Kent Constabulary has conducted an inquiry into the Metropolitan Police investigation and concluded that there was a catalogue of missed opportunities. A senior officer is facing possible disciplinary charges. Kent suggested 11 new lines of inquiry but no progress was made.

Mr Mansfield said yesterday that Neville and Doreen Lawrence were still dissatisfied. "It was another serious misjudgment not to let Kent finish the job," he said.

Stephen, like his parents, was of good character, but the police initially treated his death as a gang killing and focused on his family, Mr Mansfield said.

## Gascoigne moves to Middlesbrough

By JOHN GOODBODY

PAUL GASCOIGNE, the mercurial England international, yesterday joined Middlesbrough from Rangers for £3 million and could make his debut for his new club in the Coca-Cola Cup final at Wembley on Sunday.

Gascoigne, 30, gave up the chance of helping Rangers to win their tenth successive Scottish League championship this season but Middlesbrough are well placed to win promotion back to the FA Carling Premiership.

The England midfielder, who became a national figure when he burst into tears after being booked in the 1990 World Cup semi-final against West Germany, was signed by Bryan Robson, the captain of the England team and now the Middlesbrough manager. "Gazza will be part of my thinking for Wembley," Robson said last night, "but I will have to see what sort of shape he is in first."

Mel Stein, Gascoigne's adviser, said that leaving Rangers was "an enormous wrench" for the player. "He is very, very sad to be leaving Rangers. Paul said to me: 'I've left clubs before, but I've never been so sad about leaving a club. But he's looking forward to the cup final on Sunday, he's looking forward to the promotion push, he's looking forward to the World Cup and he's looking forward to the Premier League next year.'"

Gascoigne's last appearance in a Wembley final was the 1991 FA Cup Final for Tottenham Hotspur against Nottingham Forest.

North East returns, page 44

## Blackpool rocked as Labour opts for the South

By ANDREW PIERCE AND POLLY NEWTON

THE Labour Party yesterday severed its 70-year-link with Blackpool, which reveals in its reputation as one of Europe's brashest seaside towns, moving its annual party conferences to more genteel southern locations.

The decision has incurred the wrath of the town's formidable army of boarding house landladies. They accused new Labour of betraying its traditional working class supporters by opting for the charms of Brighton and Bournemouth. But one leading restaurateur said Blackpool had only itself to blame because the beers were too warm and the "loos smell".

The Victorian resort has been host to the Labour Party conference since the 1930s. But this conference this year will be the last. Bournemouth will take over in 1999 for the first time since 1985 and Brighton for the next two years.

The last conference could be an uncomfortable one for the Labour Party apparatchiks. Doreen Cumpsty, the indomitable hostess of the White House, famously frequented last year by Kenneth Clarke and John Gummer during the Tory party conference, said: "Yes, we have heard they are going. Well, we will see about that. They said we keep shabby hotels. Wait until I get my hands on them."

Labour chiefs were wooed by Brighton's offer of a lower price if the party staged two conferences in a row. A Labour spokesman said: "It costs more to go to Blackpool. There was also some concern at the quality of the hotels and rates."

But Bill Scott, proprietor of the River House, frequented by every Labour leader since Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, was not surprised. He said: "I have been saying for years we should get our act together. The loos smell, the beer is too warm, and the sandwiches are curling at the end. It is a very sad day for Blackpool."

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# Killer bugs and asteroids - it's a mug's game for Labour

Days occur when the House of Commons takes on an *Allice Through the Looking Glass* air. Questions and answers never make contact with each other - or with reality. What everyone wants to know is what nobody seems to ask. Ministers pontificate in response to inquiries nobody has put.

Anthrax is a case in point. On Monday ministers had advised, in a written answer, that the giant asteroid that dominated the news a week ago was not, repeat not, going

to hit the Earth. We have this on new Labour's authority. The pledge should perhaps be printed on a sixth coffee mug, to add to the set of five coffee-mug pledges already marketed by Millbank Tower: "Treat More NHS Patients"; "Smaller Class Sizes"; "No Increase In Income Tax Rates"; "Tough On Crime"; "More Jobs For Young People" ... and now: "No Collision With Asteroid".

After yesterday a seventh mug can be spun from the potter's wheel: "No Anthrax As Far As We Know". Ministers,

led by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, who made a Statement to the House, were absolutely emphatic that they had absolute confidence in absolutely categorical advice that Britain was probably not about to be hit with anthrax from Baghdad - as far as they knew, anyway.

But nobody is interested in Mr Straw's insistence that he has not received warning of an imminent anthrax attack. We had already assumed it. A minister preparing for the end of human life in Britain would have mentioned this.

What people outside the Commons want to know is whether he thinks he would know if the attack were imminent; how he would know; what he could do to repel it; whether it is possible (as the newspapers claim) to put anthrax in duty-free whisky; and, if so, how customs officers could ever hope to check and find out. No MP seemed to ask these questions. The Tories hardly asked any questions at all. As for Labour backbenchers, the poodle tendency simply wanted to congratulate Mr Straw - as Sally Keeble (Northampton N) put it - on "his very measured response".

Other MPs squeakily implored the Home Secretary not to panic. "While we don't want panic," squeaked David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N), "Iraq was 'capable of any evil'." A mischievous Julian Lewis (C, New Forest E) recalled seeing press photographs of George Robertson being vaccinated for anthrax, and mused that, though we had

been "deeply impressed by the bravery of the Defence Secretary and his team", perhaps this was "a little move self-interested than it seemed at the time".

Mr Robertson, sitting on the front bench beside Mr Straw, looked wounded.

But only Stephen Ladyman (Lab, Thames S) came close to asking what British voters want asked. Mr Ladyman (Parliament contains no Mrs. Manohar) is a brave man - but then it takes courage to be a Ladyman. It must be terrifying to be so perilously dependent on punctuation. A stray apostrophe and "s" will turn you into a notorious womaniser, while an errant hyphen renders you a transvestite. Your whole political career rests upon a typographer's steady eye.

The MP said he was "only partially reassured". Anthrax could be here already. What provisions had the Department of Health made to spot, diagnose and treat the disease?

Jack Straw shot Dr Ladyman a look like... well, like anthrax.



MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

## Blair draws line in the sand over European state

TONY BLAIR placed a firm limit on further European integration yesterday, making plain there could be no European Union encroachment on policies covering education and health, the welfare state, personal taxation and culture.

In the first speech by a British prime minister to the French parliament, Mr Blair declared: "We don't want a Europe of conformity, a united states of Europe run by bureaucrats. Moving too swiftly towards integration could prove disastrous. Choosing when and how to move closer will determine whether our people accept the changes or rebel against them."

Speaking in fluent French, and drawing initially strong applause from rightwing MPs, Mr Blair balanced his call for closer co-operation on trade and the single market, competition policy, and even economic union with a warning that the EU must reform itself or risk alienating its citizens: "You do not have to be a Eurosceptic, in any shape or form, to appreciate the deep concern amongst our peoples as to how they make sense and relate to the new Europe."

He called for a new and deeper "entente" with France to help bring Europe closer to the people. "We have had the courage to create the European Union," he said. "Now we must have the courage to reform it."

Taking his message to France of a "third way" between laissez-faire liberalism and state control of the economy, Mr Blair swiftly found himself steering a tricky mid-

Philip Webster and Ben Macintyre report on a warning in fluent French

political deficit, which our people feel keenly.

"As we enlarge there is the opportunity for us to reconsider the essential mechanism of political accountability and control. We have had the courage to create the European Union. We must now have the courage to reform it." If Europe was to grow and prosper "Europe must be close to ordinary people's concerns."

Although he warned of the dangers of remoteness from the people and of an overweening Europe, Mr Blair did insist he was a strong supporter of the EU.

He was unapologetic about the Government's decision not to enter the first wave of the single currency, which the French finance minister has warned would leave Britain in the second division. There had to be sustainable economic convergence and at present it did not exist.

In apparent reassurance, he stressed: "We have said that the single currency in a single market makes sense and already British business and the City of London are fully geared-up to dealing in and using the euro. We will be prepared - do not doubt that - and will make a decision based on clear and unambiguous facts."

Later Mr Blair played down the fact that most applause had come from the Right. "There was applause from both camps. If you can get applause from both sides that's good politics."



Tony Blair addresses the French Assembly watched by Speaker Laurent Fabius

## Straw plays down threat of anthrax attack on UK

JACK STRAW told the Commons yesterday that the Government had received intelligence on March 5 about "possible anthrax smuggling" by Iraqi agents, but he played down the potential threat to Britain.

In an emergency Commons statement, the Home Secretary said: "Our information is that there is no specific threat to the UK. There is no evidence to indicate that any attempt has actually been made to smuggle anthrax into this country. There is also no evidence that such an attempt at smuggling might be in prospect."

His comments came after Downing Street had confirmed that a warning had been issued to ports about the possibility of Iraqi agents attempting to smuggle anthrax in bottles disguised as duty-free goods into western countries.

An "all-ports" warning was sent to every Customs and Excise post on March 12, warning officers to be extra vigilant.

The Home Secretary described the warning as "prudent" and "precautionary". The warning was delayed for 13 days because the initial intelligence report had to be assessed "in context" with other information available at the time. Mr Straw added that a similar warning had been sent out "some time ago".

Whitehall sources said the anthrax warning came in the form of "material" which was immediately circulated by intelligence services in the United States, Britain and other key European capitals which had supported Washington and London in the recent crisis with Iraq.

Although the discovery of a possible anthrax terrorist attack was made after the confrontation had been resolved between President Saddam Hussein and the United Nations over arms inspections, security sources indicated that the timing was not crucial.

The general intelligence assessment of the threat

posed by Iraq since the deal was signed with Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, had not changed, even though the threat of conflict had receded.

The discovery of material outlining the option of using anthrax in a terrorist attack, the sources said, underlined the continuing threat posed by the Saddam regime but did not indicate that the Iraqi leader was about to launch a biological terror operation against Britain or any other country.

The intelligence was not uncovered by MI5 which has responsibility for countering Middle Eastern terrorism. The original source appears to have emanated from someone in Baghdad.

### UNLIKELY ROUTE FOR REVENGE

IF SADDAM Hussein hopes to decimate the population of Iraq, the constant rain of sea spray and whisky, the desire for revenge has outstripped his knowledge of biology.

Dr Thomas Sattler, a German scientist, has warned that sea spray would be most likely to produce dangerous anthrax, a condition characterized by a black ulcerating sore, treatable with heavy doses of penicillin.

Anthrax in whisky could give rise to gastrointestinal anthrax, occasionally seen in the past if people had eaten infected meat. This would not be an efficient way of spreading the disease.

The form that would be the greatest worry is pulmonary anthrax, inhaled from dust into the lung tissue, and fatal within hours or days. Sometimes the symptoms are no worse than severe flu but, after the lung tissue has become infected, bleeding compounds the effect of the initial damage done by infection.

Contaminated fly spray or air fresheners would have to be employed to achieve such cases in a domestic setting.

## French Left and Right applaud fluent PM

Continued from page 1

applied socialism," he said, to gales of laughter from the right and rather more muted amusement from the French socialists. Moments later the chamber was reunited in appreciation when Mr Blair remarked: "The other night I had the pleasure of watching Juliette Binoche at the theatre in *Naked*. She was wonderful." Many in the chamber, unaware of the West End play, evidently took this to be some sort of splendid joke

and roared their approval at this risqué British sense of humour.

Mr Blair speaks better French than any prime minister since Anthony Eden, and many of his predecessors appeared to delight in inflicting complicated cruelties on the French tongue. Sir Winston Churchill regularly demonstrated his execrable schoolboy French and Edward Heath's stilted forays into the language are still remembered with pain. Even after intensive coaching, a

At times, Mr Blair's advocacy of a middle way was all but drowned out as each side of the French parliamentary sought to out-do the other in its enthusiasm for the unlikely French speaking creature in their midst.

The Prime Minister's recent interview on French television, his holiday in France last year, his promise to return again this year and now his address to the National Assembly have firmly planted the idea in French minds that Mr Blair is not

only a committed francophile, but possibly a Frenchman manque.

"Even his most celebrated political saying was inspired by a French philosopher," *Le Figaro* declared yesterday, claiming that Mr Blair's statement of priorities - "education, education, education" - was directly borrowed from the 19th century French writer Jules Michelet.

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## No 10 denies intervention to aid Murdoch Italian deal

TONY BLAIR said last night that he treated Rupert Murdoch no differently from any other businessman with British interests, after strongly denying that he had intervened on behalf of the News Corporation chairman and chief executive in his attempt to buy an Italian television network.

Reports in yesterday's newspapers that the Prime Minister had asked Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, whether his Government would block the bid by BSkyB for Silvio Berlusconi's controlling interest in Mediaset deeply embarrassed Mr Blair, who has faced accusations that he has allowed himself to become too close to Mr Murdoch.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said that claims that Mr Blair had intervened on behalf

of Mr Murdoch, whose company is parent company of *The Times*, were a "complete joke". But Downing Street and Mr Blair declined to give details of what had been raised in the conversation between the two Prime Ministers.

Mr Blair's official spokesman neither confirmed nor denied that the deal had been mentioned, but added that "this was not a conversation about Rupert Murdoch". It was added later that they had agreed there would be no briefing on the conversation and this had been honoured. Mr Blair said that he did not discuss private telephone calls.

The vehemence of the denials, underlined the sensitivity of such

allegations for Mr Blair. His spokesman strongly attacked a report in the *Financial Times* which gave the most prominent coverage to the call yesterday. It was a joke and simply wrong, he said. The paper should not have used an anonymous Italian official to try to confirm a story that was wrong.

The Prime Minister generally spoke up for British firms and it would be odd if he did not, his spokesman said. But there was no question of Mr Blair having lobbied for Mr Murdoch. It was also pointed out that Professor Prodi had called Mr Blair, rather than the other way round.

Asked by reporters whether Mr Blair had recently met Mr Murdoch, officials said that they did not intend to give details of private meetings or private telephone calls between Mr Blair and Mr Murdoch or anybody else.

Questioned during his visit to Paris about the reports, Mr Blair said: "There is no question of offering assistance to anybody. I treat Mr Murdoch no differently from anybody else in respect of any business with British interests."

Talks between Mr Murdoch and Signor Berlusconi took place last week, but broke down when Signor Berlusconi rejected a reported \$3.2 billion offer by Mr Murdoch for his controlling 50.6 per cent share in Mediaset, which includes his three

national commercial television channels.

Signor Berlusconi, a self-made billionaire, was Prime Minister for nine months in 1994 and leads the Centre-Right opposition. But he faces several court cases arising from alleged conflicts of interest between his political activities and his business empire of 130 companies, which embraces not only television but also supermarkets, property, advertising and the AC Milan football club. A new law being discussed by the Prodi Government would oblige businessmen who take public office to sell their assets or to place them in trust.

On Monday, *La Stampa* of

Turin published an article implying, without stating, that Mr Blair had intervened to support Mr Murdoch's bid for Mediaset.

It said that Mr Blair had spoken to Signor Prodi while the abortive Murdoch-Berlusconi negotiations were taking place last week, and went on: "What did the two heads of government talk about? There is no point in asking Prodi's staff for the background, since they avoid any statement which might confirm this private conversation."

"But it is not difficult to find out that at BSkyB, flagship of The News Corporation, they are aware of Blair's initiative, which was probably inspired by Murdoch himself." The paper offered no

evidence for these assertions. Italian officials said that Mr Blair and Signor Prodi often spoken by phone, but discussed matters relating to Britain's current presidency of the European Union, and their conversations had "nothing to do with Mr Murdoch or Signor Berlusconi".

Mediaset said that Signor Berlusconi had flown to London last weekend to "keep options open for the future". But Signor Berlusconi said he had decided not to sell Mediaset because he was "too attached to it" for "sentimental and family reasons".

Signor Berlusconi and Mr Murdoch met again at the weekend and spoke about the possibility of co-operation in future, but it is far from clear whether anything concrete will result.

# HOW IS RAILTRACK DOWN?

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# Village sloggers survive appeal from boundary

**Philip Delves Broughton on the case of the neighbour who sued for cricket damage**

VILLAGE cricket may seem to be the vision of rural content, but in Rolvenden, in the Weald of Kent, the wicket has been very sticky indeed.

A nasty row between an author who lives beside the village green and the 166-year-old Rolvenden Cricket Club was finally resolved in court yesterday, when the author's claim for damage done by balls hit into his garden and on to his house was dismissed.

Derek Sheffield, 69, represented himself, with his wife Barbara holding the briefs, at Ashford County Court. He wanted £3,000 in damages for nuisance and negligence from the club, whose wicket is just 60 yards from his 250-year-old, Grade II-listed house, Cherry Tree Cottage.

Mr Sheffield, the author of books on UFOs and a recent humorous trilogy of Kent novels, has lived beside the village green for 15 years but it is only in the past three years that he claimed his life had become unliveable. He told the court that he could no longer write, invite friends round or even step out of his house while matches were being played on the green, for fear of being hit by a well struck ball.

It got to a point where he and his wife would spend their afternoons upstairs in their bedroom "watching the balls coming over". They smashed a dining room window, damaged tiles on the garage roof, and scratched a double-glazed window. He said the cricket club was slow to respond to

his complaints. Last season, however, the club erected a 6ft cricket net in front of Mr Sheffield's house and players were asked not to hit the ball too hard in that direction. Despite the cricket club's claim that this reduced hits on the Sheffield property to just two in 1997, Mr Sheffield was still not happy, demanding a 10ft net instead.

Last year, the court was told, Mr Sheffield found it necessary to walk onto the pitch to halt play if balls hit his house. On one occasion, Mrs Sheffield ran onto the pitch and seized the stumps and bats. The police had to be called to sort out the melee.

John Williams, the club captain, defended the net as a great success. He said that the Sheffield had over the past 18 months left their car in their driveway during games on purpose, in the hope that it would be hit and they would have more ammunition for their row.

Mr Williams called the cou-

ple's behaviour "intimidatory". "You must be extremely neurotic to think my wife leaves her car to be hit," replied Mr Sheffield. "I don't think I'm the neurotic one," said Mr Williams. The judge sided with the cricketers.

The star of the defence was Anne Cox, 86, who has lived in Lime Cottage, next door to the Sheffield's, since 1970, when she retired from her post as head of the art department at Benenden School for Girls. Wearing a tweed skirt and purple jumper, she said: "No ball has ever caused damage to my property," adding that she was a great follower of the village cricket team.

"Country activities should be encouraged and the playing of cricket on village greens is just such a country activity." Asked about the Sheffield's demand for higher netting, she said: "I think the netting would be too high and would make the green not look like a village green."

Dismissing the Sheffield's action, Judge Edwina Millward said: "It is very clear that when the plaintiffs bought this house in 1983 they were aware it faced onto a village green. They regard that as an amenity. It's unlikely to be built on and it's one of the attractions of living in a village. One cannot then say it is unreasonable for cricket to be played."

The judge awarded costs against the couple. Mr Williams said he was delighted with the court's ruling. "We have had fabulous support from the village," he said. "We want to maintain good relations with all our neighbours, including Mr and Mrs Sheffield."

Mr Sheffield said: "The next step is a criminal prosecution, which I have been told by the police I can take. But God help the next bloke who hits my house with a ball."

"I just want to go home and have a cup of tea," said Mrs Sheffield, "and maybe a cricket ball through the window." Her desire may soon be satisfied as the club has organised a record number of home fixtures this season.



Mr Hindley, from Rolvenden Cricket Club, and Mr Sheffield, the neighbour who took the club to court



Back in charge: Sir John Hall speaking to the press at St James's Park yesterday

# Hall calls on Newcastle fans to rally round

By Paul Wilkinson

SIR JOHN HALL, the new chairman of Newcastle United, appealed yesterday for the families at the heart of the football club scandal to be allowed to put recent events behind them.

In Sir John's first public appearance since the dramatic resignation of his predecessor, Freddy Shepherd, and his son, Douglas Hall, from the board, he called on supporters to rally round and help the club and the team to recover.

With his wife, Mae, sitting beside him, Sir John, 65, was close to tears as he spoke to a crowded press conference at St James's Park. "The effect on the Hall and Shepherd families has been awful and on Newcastle United has been sad to watch," he said.

His son and Mr Shepherd were "full of remorse" for their remarks about the club's players and supporters and the women of the North East. "They cannot apologise enough for the pain it has caused," he said. "These events are totally out of character as anyone who knows them knows. They are devoted to this club. They have worked tirelessly over the years to bring jobs and prosperity to this region."

"At a time when this club was on the brink of dropping into the Third Division they turned it into a Premiership force. They are responsible for bringing me into this club, for bringing in Kevin Keegan, for this stadium here and all the new development. Let nobody forget what they have done for this region."

Sir John questioned why his son and Mr Shepherd had been targeted by the *News of the World*. "The vilification Douglas and Freddy have been put through has been terrible to watch. Yes, it was self-inflicted, but were they MPs? Were they drugs barons? Were they arms dealers? Was anything that was said in the public interest? No. One has to ask who set up this elaborate and expensive scam."

In a statement in response to Sir John's allegation of a

"scam" against his son and Mr Shepherd, Stuart Kuttner, Managing Editor of the *News of the World*, said: "As a result of an entirely legitimate newspaper investigation the *News of the World* revealed matters of serious public interest at the heart of Newcastle United."

"The facts we uncovered were grave enough to result in the resignation of the club's two most senior executives. That alone justifies what the newspaper published."

As Sir John was speaking, jubilant fans were claiming victory over the Newcastle United board. Motorists tooted their car horns in



Douglas Hall: quit the Newcastle board

approval and several raised a clenched fist in victory.

However, the resignation of the two directors after a 16-hour boardroom battle owed as much to pressure from the City as to the power of the fans. Victory in the end went to Sir Terence Harrison, the non-executive chairman of the plc, who had openly declared that unless Messrs Shepherd and Hall went, he and the other two independent directors would.

Sir John's appointment only four months after retiring, together with good interim trading results announced yesterday, pushed the club's share price up 5p by the end of the day.

Stake cut, page 23  
City commentary, page 27  
Simon Barnes, page 38

# Judge brands man a killer

Continued from page 1  
situation in the past. The judge also noted that Diederick had no alibi for the morning of the murder and repeatedly lied when first interviewed by the police.

The judge said that Diederick had been lurking in Dr Francisco's garden when she opened the back door to put out the rubbish, had surprised her and gained admittance. He probably had no premeditated intent to kill when he entered the flat. "But I am satisfied that he first struck and then strangled the deceased by hand and ligature."

The amount of damages will be set later and Diederick was ordered to pay the costs of the hearing.

The judge had announced at the start that he had found for the Francisco family and there were gasps of delight from Dr Francisco's widowed mother, Venus, and her sisters Margrette and Celia. Margrette Francisco, a lawyer in Los Angeles, said later that they felt "overwhelmed, relieved, disbelieving and pleased".

She said: "It has been over three years since Joan was taken from us and it has been a very long and difficult struggle fraught with many

obstacles. It has been an ordeal to achieve today's result. We feel the road to justice has finally been opened to us.

"Our family has been through a very very tough time, and to have this result made all the struggles worth it. I am well aware of the precedent this judgment will set. People will be aware the system can be challenged and justice obtained." The battle to achieve justice for her sister would go on, she said, and the CPS would be "strongly urged" to review the case urgently.

The Metropolitan Police



Margrette, Venus and Celia Francisco after their High Court victory yesterday

said later that they were considering the outcome of the action and whatever implications on their investigation.

"However, at this stage no decision has been reached on whether police will be submitting a new report to the CPS to consider bringing criminal charges against any individual."

The investigation had been "thoroughly and professionally" carried out, 280 statements were taken, 520 items became police exhibits; about 400 documents had been seized and 290 messages relating to the inquiry had been received.

## ANOTHER WAY TO JUSTICE

A small but increasing number of cases have been taken to civil courts after lack of action by the prosecution authorities (Frances Gibb writes). Plaintiffs can seek damages, or seek a judicial review against the prosecution service itself.

In 1985, an Essex primary school teacher lodged the first civil claim for a sexual assault where there had been no previous criminal conviction.

Last summer, there were judicial-review proceedings in cases where the DPP had decided against prosecuting police officers after deaths in custody. The DPP changed her mind and proceeded in one case. A second is still pending.

Yesterday John Wadham, director of Liberty, said: "Using civil proceedings as a substitute for a criminal trial is unsatisfactory both for the victim and for defendants, who lose the safeguards built into the criminal procedure."

## HIGH-FLYER FULL OF LIFE AND JOY

JOAN FRANCISCO was a dedicated doctor on the wards at Queen Charlotte's Hospital in London (Michael Horsnell writes). When her day's work was over, she indulged her passion for music, dance and enjoying the company of celebrities. Her vivacity entranced all who met her.

A high-flyer, earning £45,000 a year when she died, she was to take a new post at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, East London, as a next step to a consultancy in obstetrics and gynaecology.

Dr Francisco was portrayed by Ronald Thwaites, QC, for Anthony Diederick, as a "social butterfly" who naively consorted with unsavoury men and enjoyed making herself the centre of attraction. But that was dismissed by her sisters, who said that, while she enjoyed going to nightclubs — where her circle included the footballer Justin Fashanu and the boxer Len

nox Lewis — she was sensible and conscious of her security.

Her parents met in Britain after Venus, a nurse, emigrated from St. Lucia, and Alfred, a teacher, from Belize. They brought up their three daughters as Roman Catholics. Dr Francisco was educated at a convent school in Isleworth, West London. She went to ballet and piano classes, and loved swimming, dancing and netball. She considered a career in the law — the route her sisters took — before opting for medicine.

Her mother said: "She was a very happy girl, very kind and affectionate. I miss Joan so much."

She left the family home for a basement flat the year before her death. She decided to make the move after noise from construction work on an Underground line near her parents' home deprived her of sleep when she was on night duty.

## TIMEBOMB WHO TURNED STALKER

ANTHONY DIEDRICK was a "walking timebomb", unable to come to terms with his rejection by Joan Francisco (Michael Horsnell writes). Alternating between anger and despair, he spent hours on the telephone talking to the Samaritans as well as stalking her at home and at work.

During the relationship, Dr Francisco's sisters had grown alarmed by his temper. Her middle sister, Celia, 33, sent a chilling warning in a letter: "It seems to me he is a walking timebomb and, honey, your time is running out... Is the end of your medical career worth it for Tony Diederick?"

Anthony Gilroy Diederick was born on November 11, 1959, while his father, Roy, was on National Service with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. The family home was in Paddington, West London, where his mother, Adella, raised him and his brothers and sisters in unexceptional

circumstances. He developed an interest in jazz and worked as a disc jockey in clubs with his brother Michael. He also worked as a marshal at Westminster Abbey, where he met Keith Hunt, a deputy cleaning superintendent.

Mr Hunt was one of several friends who, having been concerned about his obsessive behaviour, contacted police after Miss Francisco's body was found. Mr Hunt, who heard of the death on television news, said: "I thought that maybe he had something to do with her death. I was shaking for about five minutes afterwards."

Police asked him to talk to Diederick while wearing a microphone. In one conversation, Diederick said Dr Francisco's death was "a terrible thing... like a dream", without explaining what he meant. The Crown Prosecution Service ruled that there was insufficient evidence for a case.

Andie MacDowell

I.P. TOD'S

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Ph. Michel Comte



# Random killer picked on judge's daughter

A LONER murdered a judge's daughter, slashing her throat because she refused to give him money, Liverpool Crown Court was told yesterday.

Hours later Nicholas Burton, 27, ambushed a 17-year-old student at knifepoint, threatened to kill her and forced her to drive 100 miles before she managed to escape. Burton, from New Mills, Derbyshire, who said that he heard voices in his head, had selected his first victim, Rachel McGrath, 27, at random as she waited at closing time on a Friday night last April to pick up her boyfriend outside the Victoria Tavern, in Bramhall, Greater Manchester.

He inflicted "appalling injuries" on Miss McGrath, a building society assistant manager, and left her dying on the pavement to be discovered by her boyfriend.

Anthony Gee, QC, for the prosecution, said that Burton maintained he was not guilty of any offence because he was insane. His defence counsel will seek to prove that at the time he killed Miss McGrath he was suffering from diminished responsibility, attracting the lesser charge of manslaughter.

However, Mr Gee said Bur-

**Court told that loner made study of stabbing techniques from forces' literature, reports Russell Jenkins**

ton confessed to a fellow inmate at Strangeways prison that he murdered Miss McGrath because she would not give him money and that he had planned the attack. He boasted about killing a judge's daughter: "He said he had done it in a controlled manner, having read of the way to do it in Special Forces literature, and to make sure she went down to the floor he stabbed her in the leg."

Earlier Burton pleaded not guilty to murdering Miss McGrath on April 25 last year; not guilty to kidnapping Debra Van Gerko the following day and not guilty to falsely imprisoning her and making a threat to kill.

Burton had been seen nursing a pint of Guinness in the Victoria Tavern on the night of the murder. He tried to engage strangers in conversation and caded £1 for some cigars.

Miss McGrath, from Wilmslow, Cheshire, regularly dropped off Kevin Forster,

her boyfriend, at the pub so that he would not have to drink and drive. She would return at closing time to collect him. Mr Forster described her as "quiet, fun-loving, intelligent and entirely respectable".

At about 11pm residents heard a girl screaming and a motorist saw a body on the pavement and a man standing ten feet away. The pathologist found several slashes to Miss McGrath's neck, where the knife had been used in a sawing action, with great force, cutting through to the spine.

Almost nine hours later, the prosecution alleged, Burton ambushed Miss Van Gerko, of Gatley, Greater Manchester, as she stopped at a newsagents. He thrust his knife at her and asked her very quietly: "Give me all your money and get in the car please."

At one point during Miss Van Gerko's 11-hour ordeal he slashed the seat belt to bind and gag her and forced her into the boot of her Fiat Panda

while he stopped for petrol. He told her: "Don't scream or I'll kill you."

For four hours that Saturday afternoon, Burton parked up in the hills above Caernarfon waiting for darkness. He chatted at length to a terrified Miss Van Gerko, explaining his conviction that God had forgiven him for his sins.

Later he slung his arm around her when he forced her to extract £100 using her cash card.

But as they stopped at a second service station, she thrust open the car door and dashed to a nearby taxi pleading for help. Burton calmly drove off.

He was arrested in the early hours the following day as he slept in the British Hotel, in Bangor, where he had enjoyed a fillet steak and a polite chat with another guest about Baroness Thatcher, religion and divorce.

Mr Gee said police immediately notice a sudden change in the way he presented himself. He stared fixedly and refused to answer questions. He had tried to wash his clothes and training shoes but forensic examination found traces of the dead woman's blood.

The trial continues.



Rachel McGrath, who was stabbed through the neck at random with great force

# Veteran gunman bites the bullet

By Robin Young

THE veteran actor Pierce Lyden was recognised as the world's worst gunfighter yesterday, after failing to win a single shootout in more than 400 films.

Mr Lyden, 90, spent 30 years being hanged, stabbed, dragged behind horses and trampled by stampeding cattle. He traded bullets with film legends such as John Wayne and Gregory Peck and was invariably beaten to the draw, outgunned and left for dead.

Now the Californian, who is thought to be one of only six of Hollywood's regular B-Western "badmen" left, has arrived in England to don his stetson at the London B-Western film convention this weekend.

He said yesterday: "I never won a fight. I fought the likes of Roy Rogers and Gene Autry and I had to get whipped by everyone. I'm the last of the Hollywood badmen. There were about 85 of us, but now they're all gone."

Mr Lyden will be the star of the annual convention, which takes place at the Victoria Service Club at Marble Arch. About 200 B-Western fans will turn up to watch films featuring him and to question him.

Mr Lyden said of his appearances in films in 1930s, 40s and 50s: "It was a great business to be in. It was a lot of action and a lot of hard work, but I did all my own stunts."



Lyden: last of the Hollywood badmen

# Bristol City thugs jailed and banned for five years

By Simon de Bruxelles

ELEVEN football supporters who attacked a rival team's players during a pitch invasion were jailed yesterday for between three and eight months and banned from every football ground in the world for five years.

The Bristol City supporters were among hundreds of people who invaded the pitch after a derby against rivals Bristol Rovers. The Rovers' players who moments before had been celebrating a late equaliser were punched and kicked as they fled the field.

Film of the incident at the Ashton Gate ground in December 1996 from television and police surveillance cam-

eras was shown at Bristol Crown Court yesterday.

Fans who surged onto the pitch after the goal were initially pushed back by police but, as soon as the final whistle went, the invasion turned into a full-scale riot.

The footage showed one Rovers player being hit on the side of the head as others tried to reach the tunnel ahead of the mob. Those attacked included ex-Manchester United star Lee Martin and Rovers' player-manager Ian Holloway. Goalkeeper Andy Collet was pursued down the tunnel before being led to safety.

After jailing the men, Judge

John Foley made an order under the Football Spectators Act banning them from every soccer ground in Britain and from travelling abroad to attend matches for five years.

He said: "It seems that attacks on players are unprecedented. Players have to be protected. They are entertainers on the pitch. It is their turf."

Judge Foley told the men: "Soccer in this country has substantially cleaned up its image and encouraged young people and families to come to games. You have spoiled all that in this locality. You let down the club you purport to support."

# Special deals with Revenue may not exempt taxpayers from prosecution

By Frances Gibb  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of taxpayers who reach a deal with the Inland Revenue each year over unpaid tax could face prosecution after a Court of Appeal ruling published yesterday.

The appeal court judges have effectively said that such settlements — always understood to be a way people can wipe the slate clean — do not preclude the possibility of prosecution. David Rothenberg, an accountant with Blick Rothenberg, said: "The impact of this ruling is dramatic. Hundreds of people who have committed tax 'naughties' reach these settlements every year."

Although the Revenue retained the right to prosecute, it was understood that that was not done unless it later emerged that the taxpayer had been lying, he said. "That was regarded as the end of the

matter." Such settlements were known as "Hansard" settlements after the first statement about them in Hansard, the record of Parliamentary proceedings, in 1944, he said.

Peter Kempster, a solicitor and tax partner with Nabarro Nathanson, said the implications might go beyond the people — "possibly thousands" a year — who reached these agreements. "People who thought these tax matters were all done and dusted and put the file away might now find a man in blue knocking on the door. There is no statutory limitation on police opening up this sort of inquiry."


So-called Hansard deals were offered to a range of tax evaders whose offences stopped short of what the Revenue called the "obscure". He said. In those serious cases there was no question but that there would be a prosecution. Otherwise, the deals provided a way people could pay the

tax they owed and "make a clean breast of things" on the understanding charges would not be brought. "It removes a major weapon in the armoury of the Revenue's special compliance unit."

It also raised questions about how confidential files on a taxpayer would be and whether these would be privileged, he said. "The Revenue is now never going to be able to convince a taxpayer that the file can be put away and that is the end of the matter." People would not be prepared to come forward and take the risk, he said.

The impact of the ruling, which may be challenged in the Lords, goes beyond the right of the Revenue to prosecute in such cases and could extend to other prosecuting authorities such as the Department of Trade and Industry and the Serious Fraud Office, he added.

A spokesman for the Inland Revenue said: "We are considering the terms of the judgment and its resulting implications."




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مركز التجميل



# Titanic scuppers British Oscar hopes



Kim Basinger (best supporting actress) celebrates with her husband Alec Baldwin; Helen Hunt and Jack Nicholson, who won best actress and best actor for *As Good as It Gets*; Kate Winslet with her boyfriend, Jim Threapleton

## Hollywood honours its own as *The Full Monty* is left to face the music. Giles Whittell reports

IN THE end, it was a night when Hollywood reclaimed the Oscars from transatlantic usurpers and independent upstarts. *Titanic*, the definitive studio blockbuster film of the modern age, won more awards than its rivals put together, while the all-American romantic comedy *As Good as It Gets* won best actor and actress awards.

The four British actresses in the running for best actress — Kate Winslet, Helena Bonham Carter, Dame Judi Dench and Julie Christie — had to put a brave face on disappointment and *The Full Monty* went home with Britain's only prize, for best original musical or comedy score.

*Titanic's* haul of 11 Oscars, including the one for best picture, came as no surprise. But it raised the bar for directors of modern epics by matching an Oscar record set by *Ben-Hur* nearly three decades ago and putting the film on course to be the first to earn \$600 million (£400 million) in America.

Winslet was left out of the *Titanic* sweep and said bluntly to her supporters at a party on Monday night: "Sorry to have let you down." With an intensely physical role as an heiress aboard the doomed liner, she had nonetheless helped to make film history.

Dame Judi was released from her current West End production for two days to attend the Oscar ritual at the Shrine Auditorium in South Central Los Angeles. The star of *Mrs Brown* insisted that the trip had been worth it, even though she flies home today empty-handed.

"I expected this to happen, and in fact I told my husband it would be over we left," she said. "I am just thrilled to be here."

Bonham Carter seemed more exhausted than thrilled, but still defiant. Considered a longshot for best actress, despite rave reviews for her work in *The Wings of the Dove*, she said of the winning performance by Helen Hunt, the only American on the shortlist: "I've seen it and she deserved it — but I think I deserved it, too."

When Jack Nicholson followed Hunt to the podium as best actor, even American commentators felt a need to explain the success of *As Good as It Gets* — a low-key ensemble piece directed by Jim Brooks about an obsessive-compulsive writer who falls for both a waitress and a dog.

"It contains several features America loves," Roger Ebert, the country's most influential critic, said. "Weird characters are redeemed, tough women stand up to mean men, and there's a dog, for heaven's sake." Many of the academy's

5,000 members will not have seen *Mrs Brown* or *Miss Christie's Afterglow*.

Nicholson became one of only four performers to win three or more Oscars, having won previously for *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Tornus of Endearment*. He gave by no means the performance of his career in *As Good as It Gets*, "but he did what the academy likes, which is Jack being Jack", Mr Ebert said.

He added: "The voters were making up for the fact that they were giving all the other prizes to *Titanic*."

This may have been equally true of the supporting roles. Kim Basinger in *LA Confidential* prevailed over Gloria Stuart, despite her status as sentimental favourite for her turn as a 101-year-old survivor in *Titanic*. Mimmie Driver, in a scarlet gown with plunging neckline — which she claimed to have chosen after trying on 300 others — was likewise overlooked for her role in *Good Will Hunting*.



Anne Dudley won for *The Full Monty* music.

She did not try to disguise her disappointment. "It was a great night for everyone but me," she said at a party hosted by *Vanity Fair*. "I'm categorically a big loser tonight — but let me tell you this is only the beginning."

*The Full Monty* took home only one of the four Oscars for which it was nominated. Anne Dudley won for her musical score and confessed that when her agent first described the film, she thought, "We're scrapping the barrel here but when I saw it I realised it was about more than five fellas stripping. It's about the hardship, comradeship and the trials of the human spirit."

On his way into the *Vanity Fair* party, Jeremy Irons said: "Talent doesn't have much to do with winning an Oscar, but the voters do have a collective memory, so at least Kate and Helena needn't worry. Their time will come."

Arts, pages 35-37

### THE WINNERS

Best picture: *Titanic*, best actor: Jack Nicholson, *As Good as It Gets*; best actress: Helen Hunt, *As Good as It Gets*; best director: James Cameron, *Titanic*; best supporting actor: Robin Williams, *Good Will Hunting*; best supporting actress: Kim Basinger, *LA Confidential*; best art direction: *Titanic* — Peter Lamont; art direction: Michael Ford; set director: best costume design: *Titanic*, Deborah L. Scott; best makeup: *Man in Black*, Rick Baker and David LeRoy Anderson; Best live action short film: *Vista and Virtue*, Chris Tashima and Chris Donohue; best animated short film: *Ger's Game*, Jan Pienkovec; best documentary short subject: *A Story of Healing*, Donna Dewey and Carol Pasternak; best documentary feature: *The Long Way Home*, Rabbi Marvin Hier and Richard Threlkoff; Best visual effects: *Titanic*; Robert Legato, Mark Lussoff, Thomas L. Fisher; Best sound: *Titanic*, Gary Rydstrom, Tom Johnson, and Michael Karler; Best sound effects editing: *Titanic*, Tom Glynn-Smith and Mark Ulanov; Best sound effects editing: *Titanic*, Conrad Buff, Belfort and Christopher Boyes; Best film editing: *Titanic*, Conrad Buff, James Cameron and Richard Lasker; Best original musical score: *Titanic*, James Horner; Best original song: *My Heart Will Go On* from *Titanic*, James Horner and Will Jennings; Best foreign language film: *Chapier*, The Netherlands; (First Floor Best adapted screenplay: *LA Confidential*, Brian Koppelman and Mark Rosenthal; Best screenplay: *Good Will Hunting*, Ben Affleck and Matt Damon; Best achievement in cinematography: *Titanic*, Russell Carpenter



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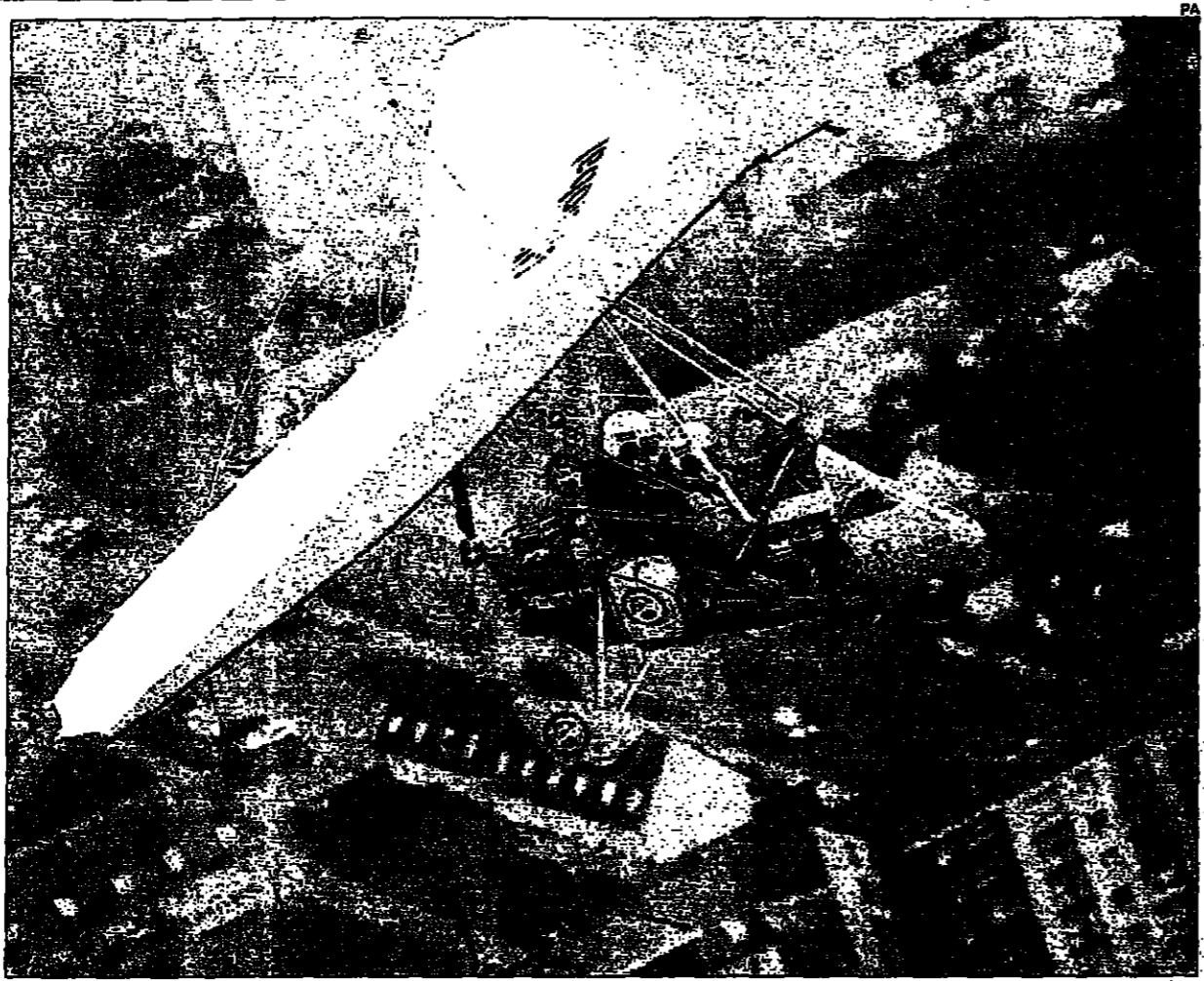
### Microlight crash mars the start of world flight

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH AND ROBIN EGGAR

A MICROLIGHT pilot was in a critical condition last night after taking off into a plate-glass wall.

Phil Good, 45, had been part of a flying flotilla of about 30 craft from Weybridge, Surrey, to Le Touquet, accompanying two Britons on the first leg of an attempt to fly around the world in 90 days. As he prepared for the return journey, his engine appeared to become engaged at full throttle before he had taken his seat or put on his helmet. He ploughed into the Le Touquet terminal building at 40mph.

Mr Good, a computer programmer from Baldock, Hertfordshire, suffered serious head injuries. His wife, Heather, was at his hospital bedside after flying from England last night. The two world fliers, Brian Milton and Keith Reynolds, were expected to be told of the accident when they landed in southern Germany.



Brian Milton and Keith Reynolds over Le Touquet at the start of their flight, unaware of the accident

## Top surgeon saw accused sculptor as modern Leonardo

By KATHERYN KNIGHT

A SCULPTOR accused of stealing body parts from the Royal College of Surgeons was interested in "doing a 20th-century Leonardo da Vinci", a court was told yesterday.

In a letter of introduction to the college's anatomy department, Richard Head, the college's vice-president, said Anthony Noel Kelly was a "serious medical artist of considerable talent" and urged the department to allow him to sketch there. Mr Head added that Mr Kelly, 42, had spent hours in his surgery and in mortuaries and abattoirs proving his commitment to medical art.

Mr Kelly and Niel Lindsay, 25, a former laboratory assistant, deny theft from the college between June 1991 and November 1994. The artist, of Clapham, South London, denies a further count of handling stolen goods.

The court has been told that the men smuggled heads, tor-

sos and limbs from the college for Mr Kelly to use in his sculptures. Police began an investigation after a government inspector saw photographs of Mr Kelly's first exhibition and contacted them.

Churamy Sinnatamby, the head of anatomy at the college, told Southwark Crown Court that he understood the Leonardo reference to mean that Mr Kelly wanted to make anatomical drawings of human bodies, like the Renaissance artist.

Dr Sinnatamby said that Mr Kelly began visiting the anatomy laboratories in 1992 and spent long hours studying dissected remains. "He would sit in the dissection room for hours on end. It intrigued me," Dr Sinnatamby said. "He said he liked looking at the human form. He found it relaxing. I got the impression he had meditative, if not artistic, qualities about him by

the way he sat in front of the exhibits."

Dr Sinnatamby said that bodies left to the college for scientific study, on the understanding that they would eventually be buried or cremated, could be kept in place of preserving fluid indefinitely. Legislation limited the time that most institutions could keep specimens, but the college had dispensation and was deemed consecrated ground.

The jury spent an hour looking at gruesome photographs of body parts recovered by police. They included feet, hands and arms, sliced cross-sections of legs, a brain, and a mud-covered head and torso which Mr Kelly allegedly buried in the grounds of his family's estate in Kent.

Dr Sinnatamby said that a considerable amount of time and skill went into preparing such things for medical examination. "It is quite an art," he told the jury.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Hoffman's daughter stole £5,000

Dustin Hoffman's adopted daughter admitted yesterday obtaining more than £5,000 by deception from her former employer. Karina Hoffman-Birkhead, 32, of Mildenhall, Suffolk, daughter of the actor's former wife, Anne Byrne, stole cheques from a firm that lets caravans to film companies. Sentencing was adjourned by magistrates at Newmarket.

#### Murder charge

Iain Meikleham, 29, of Dunbartonshire, and John Francis Parker, 27, of Ayrshire, were regarded in custody by Dumfriesshire Sheriff Court charged with murdering Roddy and Ann Marie Aitken, of Aberfoyle, Perthshire, who went missing in December.

#### Illegal road race

West Midlands Police are studying seven hours of footage from security cameras to trace more than 300 drivers in an illegal road race through Tamworth and Cannock. It was advertised on the Internet and watched by up to 1,000 spectators.

#### Security smoke

Cash deliveries made by the Securitor company will from this week be made in boxes that will damage the notes in them with dye and smoke if they are opened in the wrong place. The "Smokeboxes" are a response to last year's 83 per cent rise in raids on guards.

#### Car disabled

A doctor whose car was towed away from outside his home in Walworth, South London, after council workers painted a disabled bay round it, is disputing the £147 recovery fee. Southwark council said it would treat Shane Tibby's appeal sympathetically.

#### Hero's farewell

A war hero who settled in Britain was given an American military funeral at Madingley cemetery, near Cambridge. Paul Hicks, DSC, 72, died last week. A navigator, he flew a crippled bomber back from Germany in 1944 when the pilots were hit.

### Electric cars get battery boost

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

A SYSTEM that can recharge batteries in minutes rather than hours could transform electric vehicles, a conference in London will be told this week.

Research has shown that traditional lead-acid batteries can be recharged in as little as three minutes, hardly longer than it takes to fill a car with petrol. The rapid recharge system also increases, rather than reduces, battery life — an unexpected bonus. A chain of recharging stations could top up batteries while motorists wait, greatly increasing the appeal of electric cars.

The research has been carried out by the Advanced Lead-Acid Battery Consortium (ALABC), a group of companies involved in the lead, battery and electricity generation industries. It was started after the American Government set up an Advanced Battery Consortium to develop new batteries, excluding lead-acid as a technology with no future.

In the past it was impossible to recharge lead-acid batteries rapidly. Acid build-up near the plates caused a rapid increase in electrical resistance, which in turn caused overheating and the risk of explosion. The new system, to be discussed at a conference this week, uses electronic controls to prevent that happening. The huge charging currents, up to 3,000 amps, are delivered in pulses lasting a tenth of a second with an eight-millisecond gap to allow the acid to disperse and resistance to remain low.

"It is all controlled by computer," David Prensman, president of RSR Technologies, a Dallas-based company involved in battery development, said. "Ten years ago, we couldn't have controlled the charging currents but now we can."

Research by the consortium has also increased the capacity of lead-acid batteries by 40 per cent and they now believe that the batteries dismissed by one American official as "dinosaur technology" could, in fact, power a new generation of electric cars.

Special notices

WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH 1998

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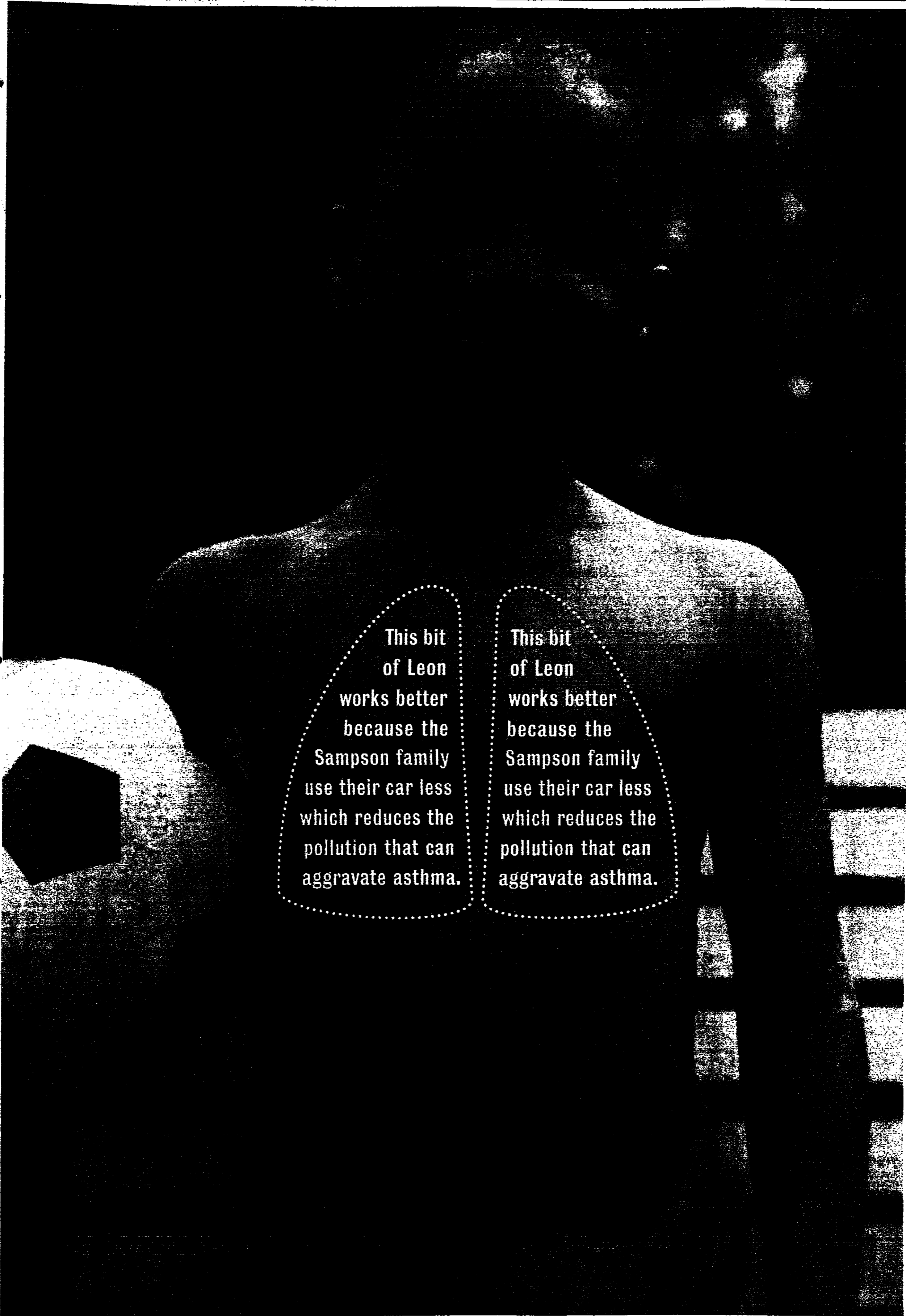
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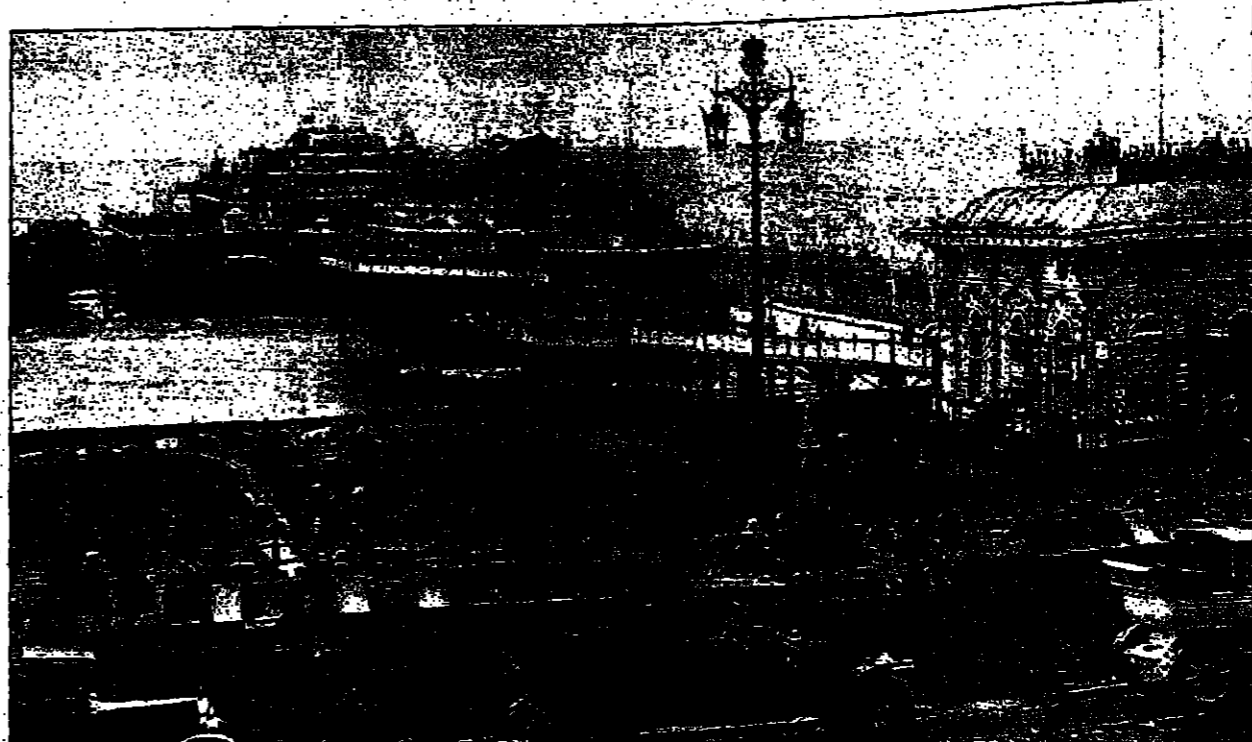
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The West Pier in the 1920s. Lottery grants of £14.2 million will help to recreate the pier's Victorian splendour

## Battered pier will rise again with £14m grant

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

BRIGHTON'S West Pier, left derelict by years of neglect and battering from the sea, will enter the millennium returned to its former glory.

A grant from the National Lottery, announced yesterday, will help to rescue Britain's only Grade I listed pier. Over the next three years its owners, the West Pier Trust, will receive a total of £14.2 million towards renovations expected to cost about £34 million. More than £10 million is to be spent on repairs to the structure of the pier, which was built in 1866 at a cost of £27,000, and the remainder on redevelopment of its buildings. The balance will be met by investment from London Regional Properties and the Oliver Peyton group.



The pier as it is now after storms and years of neglect

Work is scheduled to start this summer with a view to completion in 2002. However, the trust hopes to make it accessible to the public by 2000.

Oliver Peyton, 35, who owns several restaurants in London, will oversee the running of the pier. He plans two restaurants, two bars, an art gallery, theatres and concert venue, mooring for 60 boats and an outdoor auditorium.

He said yesterday: "There

are nothing like our piers anywhere else in the world. I'm very proud to be involved with the redevelopment of the pier. Our plan is to create a unique all-year-round resort and one of the most internationally acclaimed destinations on the English coast."

"Built by Eugène Birch, one of the Victorian era's foremost pier designers, the West Pier was the first in Britain to be built purely for

pleasure. The town's Palace pier was built later. In its heyday, two million people flocked to Brighton every year to enjoy its renowned healthy bathing until cheap foreign travel diminished its popularity.

In 1968 some restoration work was carried out for the filming of Sir Richard Attenborough's musical satire *Oh! What a Lovely War*, but it was closed to the public in 1975 when it became unsafe. The pier became detached from the shore several years later and the middle section was demolished by the great storm of 1987.

Rachel Clark, of the West Pier Trust, said: "We're absolutely delighted to be told we are definitely getting the lottery award. It's an enormously expensive scheme and it is public money being spent, so we had to be absolutely sure any plans we came up with were feasible, and commercially viable in the long run."

## Courtroom show makes comeback

By CAROL MIDDLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE 1970s drama *Crown Court* is to be revived in response to Britain's growing interest in televised trials such as that involving Louise Woodward.

As with the original series, members of the public will be picked to make up the jury and will give their unscripted verdict. Actors will take the parts of the defendants, witnesses, barristers and judges. The cases will be fictional, but will be based loosely on actual events in courtrooms around the country.

The Granada series, modelled around Manchester *Crown Court*, became cult viewing in the 1970s when it was broadcast by ITV in the daytime. It was taken off air in 1984, but not before it had become a proving ground for actors.

Television executives realised that there was an appetite for televised trials after the O.J. Simpson case. Sky News, which cleared its schedules to

broadcast the Woodward trial live, reported that more than six million people tuned in, many staying up into the early hours to follow events. Ratings increased by up to 1,000 per cent at key moments.

David Liddiment, director of programmes for ITV, said: "Obviously we are not allowed to film in British courtrooms, but there is a lot of interest in this country in high-profile American trials. This is a British courtroom for the British viewer."

The new version, made by Yorkshire TV, will have a new title, *Accused*, and be screened for an hour at peak time in the evenings once a week.

It will be part of ITV's £170 million spring and summer schedule, which, as well as a large helping of sport, offers factual programmes such as *Chaser Girls*, *Animal Rescuers* and *Bosses From Hell* that follow in the wake of such BBC successes as *Driving School* and *Animal Hospital*.

## Christians break TV commandment

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Christian Channel has received its second formal warning in less than two months from the Independent Television Commission for breaching its programme code.

The commission said yesterday that the satellite channel had committed serious breaches of rules that prohibit on-screen fundraising. Earlier this year the channel received a warning after it televised an extortion.

Any further breaches of the code on fundraising are likely to result in a fine. Continued breaches could lead to the channel's licence being shortened or revoked.

The programme was *Good Morning Europe*, broadcast on weekdays at 10.30am. The commission found that fundraising had featured in October and November last year.

Religious charities are allowed to appeal only for funds for the disadvantaged. Sarah Thane, the commission's director of programmes, said the breach was regarded as "a very serious violation", which had been of direct financial benefit to the channel.

Tony Brill, managing director of the channel, broadcast daily between 4am and 11am and claiming to reach four million British homes and 18 million across the rest of Europe, said: "The material which has brought about the warning was not thought to contravene the code since it referred to off-air correspondence between the channel and some of its regular viewers."

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# Wildlife at risk from pressure to cut water bills

MINISTERS face a show-down with their nature advisers today over the fate of wildlife areas where damage may be allowed for the sake of cheaper water bills.

English Nature has identified 79 sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) that are being sucked dry by overabstraction or are being polluted by effluent from treatment works. It says that the water industry has a legal obligation to stop the damage, find alternative water sources and fund improvements at treatment works to protect the rivers, fenland and wetland areas and their rich range of wildlife.

However, the sites have become part of the price review, which will set customer bills for 2000 to 2005. Environmental improvements are widely believed to be one area where savings can be made.

Water companies drawing up spending plans have been advised by the Environment Agency that only special-interest sites of European quality need to be seriously considered. Officials admitted yesterday that the guidance had come after pressure from Whitehall.

David Withington, senior freshwater officer at English Nature, said that meant only about nine of the 79 sites would be saved, with the rest continuing to face harm with no real improvement in customers' bills. English Nature calculates that saving all the sites would cost about £200 million, or just 1 per cent of the water companies' planned spending.

The dispute will come to a

**Nick Nuttall reports on a clash between ministers and nature advisers on special sites**

head today at a conference in London organised by English Nature and the RSPB to be attended by Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, Mr Byatt and representatives from consumer and water industry groups.

Mr Withington said yesterday: "It seems that the choice about which sites should be helped and which ones are less important has been based more on what are seen to be the Government's obligations under European directives, whereas we believe there is a clear duty under the Water Industry Act 1991 for companies to tackle all sites, both SSSIs and those with European listing."

Sites being harmed are said to include the River Axe in Devon, home to the scarce short-leaved water starwort; Swanbourne Lake in Arundel Park, West Sussex, home to breeding and wintering birds; and the River Eye in Leicestershire, one of the last strongholds for native crayfish.

Sarah Fowler, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said yesterday that improving the standard of watery wildlife sites should be a priority, rather than allow-

ing them to become marginalised during the price review. "Schemes to protect wildlife sites were omitted from previous reviews of 1990-99 in favour of schemes under the Bathing Waters Directive, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and Directives on Drinking Water."

Ms Fowler said that damage to special sites was playing a role in the decline of water-loving species. Over the past 25 years, lapwings have declined by 38 per cent, reed buntings by 60 per cent and black-tailed godwits by 31 per cent. English Nature is to reaffirm its advice that all sites, whether of international or national significance, are covered under the Water Industry Act 1991. It will also urge the public to write to MPs, asking them to put pressure on the Government and the regulator to protect all wildlife sites hit by overabstraction or sewage effluent pollution.



Leon Valero, 7, helping to launch the government campaign to reduce pollution

# Asthmatic boy does his bit to clean up streets

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD asthmatic launched a £2 million government campaign yesterday to cut air pollution and reduce the risk of global warming.

Leon Valero, from Kingsbury, North London, overcoming nerves to pose with John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said that his illness was a problem "all year round" and that car fumes were the cause.

Leon's family do not have a car and travel by Underground whenever they can. His mother, Monica, a nurse, goes to work by Tube. His message was that using buses, trains and bicycles wherever possible, instead of driving everywhere, was an obvious way of reducing exhaust fumes.

Leon's appearance at a press conference in London was part of the Government's attempt to persuade people to "do their bit" for the environment by thinking about their lifestyles. He will feature in one of the press advertisements that will run for the

next two weeks. Mr Prescott encouraged him to shout the slogan "Are you doing your bit?" before promising to show him around the House of Commons.

The Deputy Prime Minister said: "Everyone of us can do a little bit better, use our cars less, switch off the lights. It improves the environment, but most important of all, it helps Leon here breathe better... Climate change and air quality are two of our major concerns."

Small children suffered particularly because of their closeness to traffic fumes. Mr Prescott added: "We know that between 12,000 and 24,000 people die from asthma problems, which are made all the more difficult by the gases from cars."

Mr Prescott admitted that Britain had poor public transport, but said he would ensure it was improved. A White Paper on integrated transport policy will be published this summer with a consultation paper on measures to meet climate change targets.

# Sheriff's men clear tree protesters

By Stephen Farrell

ENVIRONMENTAL protesters began to be evicted from trees and tunnels along the Thames yesterday as bailiffs and police cleared a site for developers. The 60 activists were demonstrating against plans to fell 48 poplar trees in public gardens that obstruct river views from 178 new homes at Kingston upon Thames, southwest London.

At 5.30am, John Hargrove, the Under-Sheriff of Greater London, 120 police and 140 security guards hired by Fairclough Homes sealed off the area as 20 sheriff's officers began clearing the protesters from half a dozen treehouses

and a 50ft wooden tower. Eviction of the activists, a mixture of residents and veterans from the Newbury bypass and Manchester airport protests, is expected to cost the borough £500,000.

Last night nine people had been arrested for public order offences or for failing to attend court over earlier protests. About 15 remained in the trees and five in two tunnels.

Fairclough and the council said the poplars had existed for 50 of their likely 70-year span and would be replaced by 120 trees of other varieties.

Photograph, page 22

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# Labour wants mayor to be at Dome's big day

MINISTERS are planning to bring forward elections for the new London authority to ensure that the new mayor is installed before the opening of the Millennium Dome in 2000.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, will present to the Commons today a White Paper detailing the wide-ranging powers of the proposed Greater London Authority.

The elections are due to take place in May 2000, enabling the 25-strong assembly to begin working before the end of the year. But Downing Street is anxious to bring the date forward to September or October 1999. "The mayor is the most visible symbol of the new vibrant London the Government wants to project," a Whitehall source said last night.

Ministers feel that the new mayor should be with Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson, the minister in charge of the Dome, and other dignitaries at the opening. "They want the mayor in his or her rightful seat on the platform," the source said. "The eyes of the world will be focused on

Ministers hope to bring forward the poll to make the most of millennium celebration, writes Andrew Pierce

London. The mayor will be part of that focus."

The White Paper on the proposals, which would introduce the American-style big city mayor to the British political system, will include provision for a deputy to be elected by members of the assembly.

The mayor will take over some responsibilities for fares on rail, Tube and bus services. He or she will also have some input into regulation and further privatisation.

Although the authority will not have direct tax-raising powers, the mayor will be able to raise revenue from parking fees and road tolls. The assembly will be able to block the mayor's Budget by a majority of one vote. The mayor will have a private staff of about 15. The White Paper is expected to name either the site or options for the

authority's home. They include Admiralty Arch at the foot of The Mall.

Londoners will be asked whether they want an assembly and a mayor in a referendum on May 7. A clear "yes" vote is expected.

Leading candidates linked to the post of mayor include, for the Tories, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare and the former transport minister Steven Norris. Lord Archer has a 100-strong team of volunteers ready to campaign for him. Glenda Jackson, the Oscar-winning actress turned London MP and Transport Minister, has the discreet backing of Tony Blair. The broadcaster Trevor Phillips is also in the frame. Labour and Tory sources say that their shortlists are far from closed.

"We may not even have heard the name of the first Mayor of London," a govern-

ment source said. Speculation continues around Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, who is a London MP, but friends say that he is not interested.

The prospects of a maverick non-party candidate becoming mayor has all but been ruled out by the new voting system chosen by the Government. The White Paper will reveal that the supplementary vote method will be adopted. It will also include plans for a form of proportional representation, known as the additional member system, to elect the 25 assembly members.

The supplementary vote system invites voters to name a first and second choice. The two candidates with the most first-choice votes go into a second round, with the second-choice votes of people who backed the other candidates distributed between them. Whoever then commands more than 50 per cent support is the winner.

Mr Blair has taken a close interest in the development of the White Paper. If the London experiment is a success he hopes to repeat it in other major cities.



# French given a revealing lesson in le Blairisme

TRAVEL is obviously conducive to candour. Just as Margaret Thatcher visited Bruges to give one of her most memorable speeches, so Tony Blair yesterday went to Paris to deliver his most comprehensive statement to date about the meaning of Blairism. The speech is revealing about Franco-British co-operation and the need for a new political vision for Europe — though Mr Blair did not spell out what he meant by a "political framework that is dramatically more relevant, more in touch than the present one". But the most striking section was about the "third way".

Labour policymakers and intellectuals have spent a lot of time trying to define what the term means. It is a frequent topic in the pages of the *New Statesman*, *Prospect* and *Renewal*, and there is even an Internet debate on the topic. Have Bill Clinton and Mr Blair found a new approach "beyond left and right"? This has been the theme of two seminars at Chequers last November and at the White House seven weeks ago.

Mr Blair admitted yesterday that "to some, the new Labour Government in Britain exhibits what they call an ideological confusion. How can you say you are of the left but welcome business in Government? How can you help the poor but say you are in favour of wealth and an absence of penal taxes on it? How can you introduce greater competition and yet say you are in favour of job security? How are you against too much power being vested in government but in favour of social action?"

The real issue is redefining the role of government — "how to provide security in a world of change". People "know that change cannot be resisted, but neither do they want change to control them, to rule them". Mr Blair delights in his rejection of ideology. While it is all very well to talk about absolute adherence to basic values, that is no more helpful as a road map than his mantra that "what counts is what works".

Mr Blair did, however,

offer four guidelines — prudent discipline over financial and monetary policy; a shift in the role of government from regulation to equipping people for economic change by focusing on education, skills, technology, high-quality infrastructure and a welfare state that promotes work and makes it pay; specific measures to tackle social exclusion; and a new emphasis on entrepreneurship, small business creation and risk-taking. Mr Blair defined the third way as "not laissez-faire nor state control and rigidity, but an active government role linked to improving the employability of the workforce". Critics would question the extent of the retreat from regulation in view of Labour's support for the social chapter. If you look at the Government's record since May as opposed to this rhetoric, the third way boils down to government activism on the

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

cheap, financed by limited redistribution aimed to benefit the working poor. The Government's major new schemes — the New Deal to help people back into work, the childcare package and the working families tax credit — are being financed by taxes on privatised utilities, up-market house sales, pension funds and childless married couples. But there is a reluctance to raise tax rates or VAT.

The priority is to find initiatives that do not increase public spending. Instead, the arm of Whitehall is being extended to inspect and check standards in schools and in the NHS. These have been supplemented by high profile projects such as the new summer literacy programme and the new 24-hour health helpline. These are desirable in themselves, but they do not cost much.

Blairism is not anti-government. It still means active government, but with the crucial proviso that nothing should be done to alarm the middle classes.

PETER RIDDELL

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## 'One pint' limit backed

THE drink-driving limit should be cut to the equivalent of about one pint of beer, a House of Lords committee recommends today.

In a report on blood-alcohol levels for drivers, the committee that considers proposals from the European Union, supports reducing the British limit from 80 milligrams to 50 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood. The peers say that the automatic one-year driving ban should remain for anyone over the limit, whatever

the maximum permitted level, but call for a two-tier system with harsher penalties for those found to have a level higher than 150mg/100ml.

The Lords committee said that drink-driving limits should continue to be set by each state rather than by Brussels. The Government is already considering changes. Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, said in February that he was "minded" to reduce the limit to about one drink.

## THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

### MEET NICK HORNBY

Nick Hornby, the best-selling author of *Peter Fish* and *High Fidelity*, will be talking about his new novel, *About a Boy*, at a Times/Dillons Forum. Hornby will read extracts from the book and answer readers' questions about his work.

Chaired by Lynne Truss, Times columnist and comic novelist, the forum will take place at 7.30pm on April 7 at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1E. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed) includes £2 off copies of *About a Boy* (Gollancz, £15.99).

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# Triple baby vaccine is safe, experts tell parents

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of children could be maimed or killed if they were not immunised against measles, mumps and rubella, parents were told yesterday.

Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, said there was absolutely no scientific evidence to show a link between the MMR vaccine and autism, Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

He was speaking after a day-long meeting of 37 scientists reviewed a study of 12 cases by doctors at the Royal Free Hospital Medical School in North London which questioned whether there might be a link. The meeting, at the Medical Research Council, studied all the evidence, including the work done at the Royal Free, and concluded that any link was purely coincidental and there was no reason to change government advice that all children should be immunised.

"It would be dreadful if we were to compromise the health of children on the basis of work which has not been substantiated," Sir Kenneth said. He was deeply concerned at anecdotal evidence that there had been a dip in the number of children being vaccinated since publication of the Royal Free report. "As you reduce the immunisation rate you increase the number of people who are susceptible."

Sir Kenneth rejected the suggestion by Andrew Wakefield, who led the research at the Royal Free, that babies should be given the three vaccines separately. "There is no evidence of a relationship between the triple vaccination

and any of these disorders," he said. "Giving the vaccinations separately would mean three visits and three injections. For a minimum of two years a child would not be immunised against a disease which could kill or maim. I am not prepared to encourage something which might harm children."

Sir John Pattison, chairman of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee, who chaired the meeting of experts, said he had no doubt that the MMR vaccine was safe. "I would sign up my own children to have it if they were the right age."

He said there was a need for more research because the bowel diseases and autism were such terrible conditions. Autism, which was most feared by parents, happened to develop from the time a child was in its second year, which was when the vaccination was usually given.

"Most children get MMR in the second year of life, so if you select a group of them for any other reason you'll find they all had MMR," he said. "Is it just coincidence or is there more to it? Our feeling is the balance must be against it being anything other than a coincidence."

A statement from the Royal Free said its medical school agreed that there should be no change in the present immunisation programme for children, but that there should be more research into the role of the measles virus in bowel diseases. The statement added that the school would continue to study and care for children with "the very rare association" between autism and bowel disorders.

# GPs beg for break as night calls soar

By OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS called on patients yesterday to limit their out-of-hours calls to real emergencies as a new survey showed the number of night visits by GPs had increased sixfold over the past 25 years.

In one year 30 per cent of patients called their GP out of hours, the poll by MORI for the government-backed Doctor Patient Partnership Campaign found. It also showed that the number of out-of-hours calls made to GPs over Bank Holidays was 50 per

cent higher than on a normal day. Simon Fradd, chairman of the campaign, made a plea for people to make sure their medicine cabinets were fully stocked before Bank Holidays.

Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, said that the new NHS Direct helpline, where nurses took the calls and gave advice or decided if a doctor was needed — which has been on trial in three areas for the past fortnight — was already proving highly successful in reducing out-of-hours calls.

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Jessica La Rochelle, left, and Jessie Terry, two of the teenagers waiting in the cold

# Canadians open season on Prince Will hunting

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince of Wales and his two sons arrived for a skiing holiday in Vancouver early yesterday, with Prince William the undisputed star.

The Prince, 15, received a pop idol's welcome from the large crowd, with teenage girls screaming as if the next monarch but one were a member of Oasis. Many had waited for up to six hours in freezing temperatures to catch a glimpse of the shy, self-effacing Prince.

He had travelled by scheduled flight at the start of his Easter holiday from Eton. He met up with his father and brother, who had travelled separately for security reasons in a private jet provided by Galen Weston, the Canadian food millionaire.

As Prince William stepped from a car outside his hotel, teenagers squealed with delight. Jessica La Rochelle, 19, who held up a sign proclaiming: "William, it's me you've been looking for," said the Prince was "the British version of Leonardo DiCaprio. I find his courage very sexy; it's the way he has faced up to



Prince William: facing the crowd's adulation

things." Tara Woodman, 15, said: "He's drool material; he has his mother's good looks. He is a real person, someone you can relate to because of what he has been through."

Yesterday the young Prince visited a space exploration exhibition in Vancouver and later joined their father at a reception at a marine environmental centre. Last night they were due to fly by helicopter to the Canadian Rockies for a four-day private

skiing holiday as guests of the Westons, with one photocall promised in the hope that they will then be left in peace.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother once remarked that the chopper had changed her life as conclusively as that of Anne Boleyn. Today the two red-pot-bellied Wessex helicopters that have been in continuous royal service since 1969 are being retired from duty. Advancing age means that they require more and more expensive maintenance.

The last royal Wessex flight will take the Duke of Gloucester on an official visit to the Imperial War Museum's historic aircraft collection at Duxford, Cambridgeshire. When it returns to its base at RAF Northolt this evening, the Duke will read a farewell message to the crew from the Queen.

From next month the Royal Family will fly to official engagements in a leased Sikorsky S-76, for which no British equivalent is available. The move is expected to save at least £1.8 million a year.

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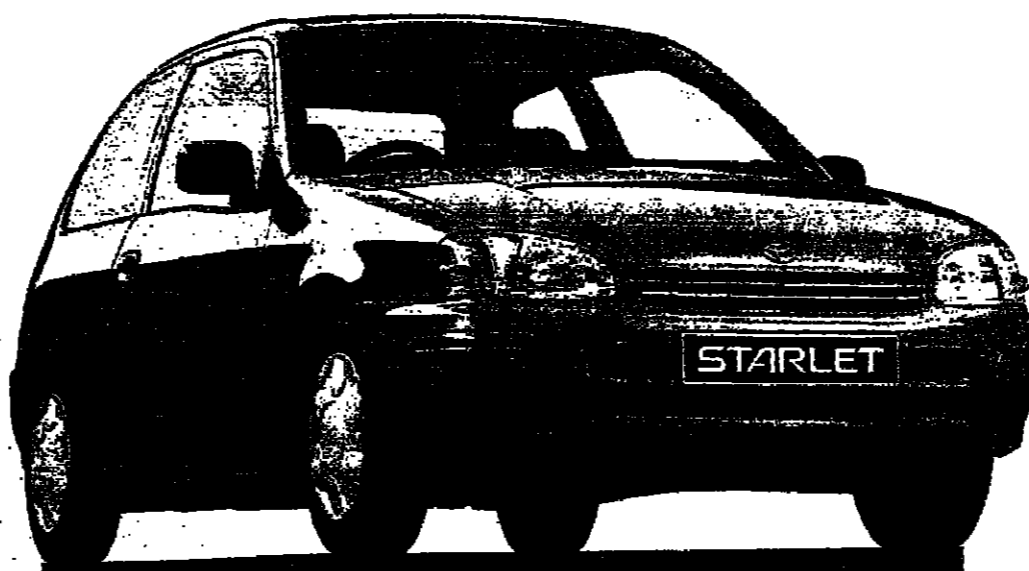
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# Camorra preys on trade in exotic animals

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

POLICE cracking down on the Mafia in the Naples area yesterday found that crime bosses are acquiring new status symbols to supplement their gold watches, Mercedes cars and Armani suits: menageries of lions, leopards, pythons and other illegally imported wild animals.

The Mafia craze for mini-zoos came to light when a lion, named Simba after the character in the Walt Disney film *The Lion King*, was found in the garden of Raffaele Brancaccio, a boss of the Camorra, the Naples Mafia, who was recently arrested and is in prison awaiting trial. Brancaccio, whose clan nickname is "Bamboo", is known for his penchant for the exotic. Police were nonetheless started to come across the three-year-old lion stalking the grounds when they raided his



Simba, a lion reared by a Camorra boss which used to stalk his garden in the old centre of Naples, is now being looked after in the city's zoo

luxury villa in the Arenaccia quarter in the old centre of Naples. They called keepers from Naples zoo, who captured the 352lb lion.

Police said Brancaccio had had Simba since he was a cub. Neighbours had protested, at one stage even calling in the police, but Brancaccio hid the lion and made it the centre of a growing animal collection. "His garden was a real menagerie," a police spokesman said. "Simba was the largest animal, but he also had rare parrots, monkeys, snakes and fighting dogs, including a dozen pit bull terriers."

Another imprisoned Camorra boss, Giacomo Tevola, who lived farther down the coast near Sorrento, kept a large python, and according to local residents "often strolled around the village with the snake round his neck". A week ago police found a leopard in a cage in the garage of a third well-known gangster, Vincenzo Mazzarella, boss of the San Giovanni quarter of Naples. Mazzarella is on the run, but had left the leopard behind to guard his property. It was found "dishevelled and undernourished, altogether a sorry sight", police said.

The lion, the leopard and the python are now all being cared for at Naples zoo. Under a 1996 law Italians are forbidden to keep animals "which pose a danger to public health or safety", including not only lions and tigers but also leopards, kangaroos, wolves, bears and pandas. Giro Toiano, a spokesman for the Italian Animal Protection League, said there was a "multimillion-dollar criminal trade in rare and exotic animals". A street market held on Sundays on the outskirts of

Naples deals openly but illegally in exotic birds and animals, Signor Toiano said. "This trade is totally in the hands of the Camorra. Owning an exotic animal is not only one of the biggest status symbols in organised crime, it is also a very lucrative activity along with drugs and arms smuggling."

Thousands of people have demonstrated on the streets of Naples and Palermo over the past few days to protest against both unemployment and the organised crime that feeds on it. Police cracking down on Mafia crime last week broke into rundown council flats in Naples illegally occupied by mafiosi and discovered a secret opulent lifestyle being led behind the dilapidated exteriors, with the modest flats furnished with Persian carpets, paintings and marble Jacuzzis. *La Repubblica* noted that, despite the determined drive to undermine the Mafia over the past five years, its bosses still wear Versace and Armani suits and Cartier and Rolex watches encrusted with diamonds, and even wear designer tracksuits in prison.

"When they go on trial, their wives and girlfriends turn up in court in fur coats, designer sunglasses and heavy gold jewellery," the paper said.

## Rearing a child in US costs \$1.4m

FROM TUNNU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

RAISING a child from the cradle to university — a period spanning 21 years — costs the average middle-income American family the equivalent of \$1,455,581 (£838,000), according to a report published here.

Children born to families defined as higher and lower income cost the equivalent of \$2,783,268 and \$761,871 respectively over the same period.

The study, published yesterday by the *US News & World Report* magazine, calculates how much parents spend per child every year on items such as housing, food, transport, clothing, healthcare, toys and recreation; day care; schooling and university.

Controversially, the study also includes "foregone wages" as a cost to be taken account of. This is calculated as the sum that would have accrued as income had the father or mother not had to take time off from work — or even stop working — to attend to the child at home. Economists describe this category as "opportunity cost". Put simply, people who have children tend to have less time on their hands to make money.

Foregone wages, according to the report, amount to the single highest cost parents face. Middle-income parents are calculated jointly to "lose" \$996,567 over 21 years. Higher-income parents, naturally, lose more — \$1,583,454.

The biggest burden arises out of university fees, which amount on average to a total of \$157,831 for the four-year period American students spend as undergraduates. The next highest cost is housing, totalling \$97,549; expenditure on food amounts to \$54,795 over the entire child-raising period.

Transport, predictably, sets parents back by a large sum (\$46,435), as does healthcare (\$20,757) in this land of pay-to-be-cured.

Most eye-opening, however, is the \$33,996 spent over 21 years on toys and recreation. This shows, perhaps, that America's children are having a whale of a time.

## Italy in euroland as Brussels prepares to field virtuous first eleven



Duisenberg: tipped as head of central bank

FIVE years of budgetary sweat will pay off for 11 European Union states today when the European Commission declares that they have all met the Maastricht criteria and are fit for entry to monetary union.

The long-awaited verdict on the inhabitants of the future "euroland" is a special relief for Italy, where the Government of Professor Romano Prodi has pulled out all the stops and defied the doubts of its Northern partners.

The Commission's list, which embraces all would-be euro members except Greece, is virtually certain to be endorsed by EU leaders when

The economic goalposts have been shifted in order to get the desired result, Charles Bremner writes

they meet on May 23 under the chairmanship of Tony Blair to fix the final details for the currency launch next January. Greece is aiming to win entry by the time notes and coins are issued in 2002, while Denmark, Britain and Sweden, although economically qualified, have decided to stay outside.

Sweden's case sets the scene for future trouble for Britain because the Commission is expected to say the Swedish crown has not qualified for membership because it does not belong to the exchange-rate mechanism. The Maastricht treaty sets two years' membership of the ERM as an entry condition.

The rule is a convenient device for granting Stockholm its wish to stay out because, unlike Britain and

Denmark, Sweden was not granted the right to opt out of its economy passed the Maastricht "convergence" tests. Britain maintains that non-membership of the ERM will be no bar to its future membership because a 1993 revamp made the rule obsolete.

For critics of the currency, the presence from the start of Italy, Spain and Portugal, the so-called Club Med states which have shaky fiscal records, adds to the risk of tension inside the new currency zone. The architects of the Maastricht project had envisaged that the currency would start with an inner core of historically strong currencies

clustered around the German mark.

Italy's continuing weakness, symbolised by its steep national debt, is expected to be highlighted in a separate report today from the European Monetary Institute (EMI), the precursor to the future European Central Bank (ECB). The Frankfurt body is likely to sound a diplomatic caution over Italy's ability to sustain its late-born budgetary virtue.

Belgium's national debt, which stands equal to Italy's 120 per cent of gross domestic product, is also likely to be singled out.

However, finance ministers

are confident that the pressure to maintain rigorous budgets is irreversible, thanks in part to the German-inspired "stability pact" which sets crushing lines for any euro states that stray.

While the technical preparations are complete, political compromises must still be reached on the leadership of the European Central Bank. France is still insisting, against the great majority, that Jean-Claude Trichet, its central bank governor, should take over the euro-bank presidency. Germany and the others are backing. Wim Duisenberg, the Dutch head of the EMI,

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# Troika of Kremlin insiders plotted the downfall of Yeltsin's Cabinet



Berezovsky, identified with "crony capitalism"

President Yeltsin's shock decision to sack his entire Government was taken after close consultations with a group of shadowy Kremlin insiders, including his daughter, a billionaire and his ghost writer.

As details of Monday's "bloodless coup" began to surface, it emerged that the Government may have been surprised by its dismissal, but the decision was not simply President Yeltsin acting on impulse. An influential cabal played a decisive role in preparing the removal of Viktor Chernomyrdin, the former Prime Minister, and his deputy, Anatoli Chubais.

According to official sources, analysts and some Russian newspapers, the decision had been carefully planned with the involvement of Tatyana Dyachenko, the President's daughter and confidante, Valentin Yumashev, head of the Kremlin administration and ghost writer of Mr Yeltsin's two books, and Boris

Richard Beeston reports from Moscow on a group of advisers, including the President's daughter, who have Boris Yeltsin's ear

Berezovsky, a business tycoon and veteran Kremlin intriguer.

Mrs Dyachenko's influence on Kremlin decision-making is hard to underestimate. She entered politics two years ago to help her father's reelection campaign and has become one of his closest aides, particularly during his long spells of illness. During the present political upheaval, a friend described her as being in the thick of it, even though the publicity-shy mother of two has made no public comments.

Mr Yumashev, a former journalist, helped the Russian leader to write his two volumes of memoirs and was promoted to the head of the Kremlin administration last year.

According to one analyst, he has since become "the son that Yeltsin never had" and has been at the President's side throughout the present crisis.

The third and most controversial player in the troika is Mr Berezovsky, a businessman who is estimated to be worth about £2 billion, who is heavily identified with the "crony capitalism" that emerged in Russia after the collapse of communism.

Mr Berezovsky, who controls a large slice of the Russian oil, media and airline industries, has been at odds with Mr Chubais since last summer over a failed privatisation bid for a telecommunications com-

pany and a similar dispute with Mr Chernomyrdin this year over an oil company.

Although he disappeared to Switzerland a few weeks ago, suffering from a snowmobile injury, he re-emerged recently. In an interview published on Friday he predicted that Mr Chubais had only "days left in government", even though the Russian leader had promised to keep Mr Chubais in the Cabinet until 2000. On Sunday, Mr Berezovsky returned and in a television interview spoke of the need for "new faces in the Government" only hours before Mr Yeltsin dropped his bombshell, dismissing 29 ministers.

The daily *Moskovsky Komsomolts* said: "The next day Yeltsin seemed just a man fulfilling all that Boris Abramovich Berezovsky told him the night before." The headline was "What sort of devil led Yeltsin astray?" Yesterday the Kremlin was ada-

mant that Mr Berezovsky's remarks and his return to public life were simply coincidences and rejected suggestions that he had once again been shaping Kremlin policy.

Despite the denials, few doubt that Mr Berezovsky was involved in the sackings and is now lobbying furiously to ensure that the next government is stacked in his favour and that the Prime Minister is an ally.

One idea, reported in a newspaper Mr Berezovsky controls, suggested yesterday that he may seek a Cabinet position himself. Officials also said that he was pressing for the appointment of Ivan Rybkin, a former Deputy Prime Minister, whom Mr Berezovsky once served on the Kremlin's Security Council.

Nevertheless, Mr Berezovsky's influence has its limits and destroying the old Government may be easier than forming a new one, particularly when every interest group in Russia is lobbying the Kremlin for its candidate to become Prime Minister



Dyachenko: difficult to underestimate influence

## Most Russian ministers likely to be kept on

A CLEARER picture of the future Russian government was beginning to emerge yesterday after President Yeltsin's dramatic dismissal of his entire administration on Monday, with the indication that most ministers would keep their jobs. But there was still no announcement of a new Prime Minister.

The only certain victims of Mr Yeltsin's cull were Viktor Chernomyrdin, the outgoing Prime Minister, who is to concentrate on political work with his pro-government faction, Our Home Is Russia, and Anatoli Chubais and Anatoli Primakov, First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister respectively, both of whom were sacked by separate presidential decrees.

Under the Constitution, if the Prime Minister is dismissed, the whole government is automatically dismissed along with him, leaving his successor the freedom to pick his Cabinet — in consultation with the President. Thus Mr Yeltsin had no option but to remove the whole Government if he wanted to get rid of Mr Chernomyrdin. Speaking

New Cabinet leader has yet to be chosen, writes Robin Lodge in Moscow

yesterday at a meeting in the Kremlin with Sergei Kiriyenko, the Acting Prime Minister, Mr Yeltsin went out of his way to praise two senior Cabinet members, Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, and Igor Sergeev, the Defence Minister. He also had a separate meeting with Nikolai Kovalyov, head of the FSB internal intelligence service, indicating that his job was also safe.

Indeed, all ministers apart from Mr Chernomyrdin, Mr Chubais and General Kulikov have been told to remain at their posts until a new government is formed. Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the presidential spokesman, said yesterday that most of them would be

kept on. But a great deal will depend on whoever Mr Yeltsin nominates as Prime Minister, and last night there were still no hints from the Kremlin. Mr Kiriyenko, at 35, is considered too young and inexperienced for the job, although he is likely to remain First Deputy. Mr Yeltsin is certain to be assessing the mood of the State Duma, which must endorse his nominee or face dissolution and new elections.

The Duma is vocally extremely hostile to Mr Yeltsin and had organised a day of protest on April 9 to call for the Government's dismissal, before being pre-empted by Monday's events. But with nearly two years of their term still to go, many deputies would be reluctant to risk losing their seats.

This gives Mr Yeltsin much more room to manoeuvre. In the past, most commentators have ruled out the possibility of one of the radical reformers, such as Mr Chubais, his fellow First Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov, or the liberal economist Grigori Yavlinsky being appointed



Boris Yeltsin addresses his Kremlin staff yesterday. He indicated that he wanted some key Cabinet members to stay in the new government

Prime Minister, because of Duma opposition.

Now, however, none of these — with the exception of Mr Chubais, who is out of the running anyway — can be ruled out. Much depends on Mr Yeltsin's motives, whether he is looking for a strong, high-profile figure, who would

inevitably be seen as his chosen successor for the presidential election of 2000, or is simply after an amenable, competent administrator who will not oppose him.

If the former is correct, he would incline towards Mr Nemtsov or possibly even Mr Yavlinsky — or a popular

figure like Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, who has the additional advantage of being acceptable to most Duma members, although he has powerful opponents elsewhere. But if he takes the second option, he would be more likely to choose a lesser-known but able candidate

from the regions, such as Yegor Stroyev, the former Communist chairman of the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, or Dmitri Ayatskov, the reformist governor of Saratov, south-east of Moscow.

Yesterday Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist

Party leader who was defeated by Mr Yeltsin in the final round of the 1996 election, repeated his demand for a government of national unity that would include members of the Opposition and reflect the views of the Duma. That, at least, is one option that can be firmly ruled out.

### WORLD IN BRIEF

#### Man 'sent death threats to Gates'

A MAN was accused yesterday of threatening to kill Bill Gates, the American chairman of Microsoft, in an attempt to extort \$5 million (£3.8 million) from the billionaire (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Adam Quinn Pletcher, 22, from Illinois, sent four letters in a month to Mr Gates, threatening to kill him, his wife or Microsoft executives if the sum was not forthcoming, prosecutors said. Mr Pletcher denies the charges, saying that he was "merely playing out an imaginary scenario" when he sent the letters. But prosecutors say they have a signed confession.

#### RAF rescues ship's crew

Nicosia: An RAF helicopter plucked the crew of eight from the Honduran-registered cargo ship *MV Demetrios II* when she was stranded off the west coast of Cyprus after being buffeted by storm-force winds and heavy seas, the police said here yesterday. None of the eight — four Greeks, two Syrians and two Pakistanis — was injured. They were taken off in pairs. (AFP)

#### Contraband snakes seized

Bangkok: Thai authorities seized about 4,000 live snakes that had been packed into 84 air cargo crates to be shipped illegally to China and used for food and medicine. The snakes were rescued while the crates were being loaded. Some Chinese believe that snake blood and other parts will improve their health. Chopped-up snake pickled in alcohol is a fairly popular home health tonic. (AP)

#### Nairobi campus closed

Nairobi: Students at Nairobi University headed home yesterday after its closure in response to riots. Some of the worst violence in Kenya for nearly a year, in which two policemen were seriously hurt, presented a public relations headache for President Moi on the day of President Clinton's arrival in neighbouring Uganda. The students object to an easier admissions policy. (Reuters)

#### Portugal's cardinal dies

Lisbon: Cardinal Antonio Ribeiro, right, Patriarch of Lisbon and known for his efforts to modernise the Catholic Church in Portugal, died after a long battle against cancer. He was 69 and had been in hospital since November. Before his appointment to Lisbon in 1971, Cardinal Ribeiro was a popular public figure because of his weekly religious programmes on television. (AP)



#### Three females too many

Tokyo: The excitement of being put in a cage with three females was apparently too much for Sultan, a 28-year-old male lowland gorilla. The 400lb primate ran round for a few minutes tussling with his new playmates then promptly dropped dead at the zoo in the Japanese city of Kyoto. Keepers believe he had a heart attack. (AP)

## West is defied as Serb forces take Kosovo reprisals

FROM TOM WALKER IN GLOGJANI

SERBIAN security forces yesterday risked plunging Belgrade into further conflict with the international community as they responded with heavy firepower to an attack by ethnic Albanians that left one policeman dead.

Interior Ministry sources said that in the subsequent police reprisal at least four Kosovo Albanians died as troops laid siege to the village of Glogjani, south of Pec.

American diplomats said their contacts in the area reported a wave of refugees fleeing across the nearby border into Albania.

Verifying the extent of the casualties or the size of the exodus was impossible, but with at least one other attack on police yesterday government officials alleged that the Kosovars were seeking to provoke the security forces on the eve of today's Contact Group meeting on the crisis in the Yugoslav Federation.

Glogjani, a community of about 5,000, was deserted save for livestock yesterday afternoon as shooting was heard in the outskirts of the village. Kosovars from neighbouring Irtzic said a compound local family, the Harilinis, was surrounded. They hinted that the family could have links to the Kosovo Liberation Army.

According to the Interior Ministry sources, "a substantial amount of arms and ammunition was captured. The terrorists remain surrounded and fighting is continuing", they said.

Glogjani and Pec lie about 15 miles east of the Albanian border and are outside the Drenica region, until now the focus of the Serbs' attempts to eradicate the guerrillas. Nevertheless, the villages south of Pec have long been a stronghold of resistance to Belgrade's authority. The Kosovo Information Centre claimed houses in Glogjani were burning.

While the real strength of the guerrilla army is unknown, the new Serbian Government approved yesterday has a distinctly hardline look, with the ultra-nationalist Vojislav Seselj named as Deputy Prime Minister.

"Seselj in the Government means complete isolation from the world," said Vuk Draskovic, whose Serbian Renewal Movement is in Opposition. "He'll make the problem of Kosovo more difficult."

Diplomats said that today's meeting, which Ms Albright



Map showing the location of Glogjani and Pec in Kosovo, near the border with Albania.

will chair, would consider whether to tighten sanctions against Belgrade and impose further measures, including the freezing of Serbian assets abroad. Ms Albright met Lamberto Dini, the Italian Foreign Minister, and senior Vatican officials in Rome to discuss the Balkans crisis. She said that President Milosevic still has a long way to go in complying with the Contact Group's conditions.

## Milosevic is given Albright warning

Rome: On the eve of today's Contact Group meeting in Bonn on the crisis in Kosovo, Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State, warned President Milosevic of Yugoslavia yesterday that he had failed to meet the key demands of the big powers on Kosovo and faced further pressure to end the repression (Richard Owen writes).



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# US welfare cuts fail to push people into jobs

FROM BROWNEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

UP TO half those Americans who have been thrown off welfare rolls under tough new laws are failing to get work, according to a flood of studies that reveal the darker side of the revolutionary benefit-reforming experiment.

Many families have had welfare checks cut off years before the deadline because parents are unable or unwilling to turn up at job-search classes, according to three surveys published this week.

"My impression is that fewer people than some expected are landing jobs," says Gary Burdick of the Brookings Institution. "The question is, if they don't land jobs, what happens to them?"

The first signs of the effects of the 1996 welfare reform laws, the most controversial that President Clinton has signed — they have turned many Democrats against him — are emerging as Britain heads down a similar route, inspired, in part, by the American experience.

City mayors and state governors are ebullient about the reforms, with welfare rolls plummeting and evidence that for a large minority — perhaps a third — the knowledge that benefits will be cut off spurs them into steady work. The booming US economy has generated thousands of minimum-wage jobs. But there are also signs that for up to a half, even the incentive of losing the

## BLAIR POLICY

LABOUR'S Welfare to Work programme is the cornerstone of the Government's parliamentary programme and represents the key policy area for the Blair administration. Much of the inspiration for the British programme comes from social and economic experiments pioneered by states such as Wisconsin. As Frank Field, the Social Security Minister, proposes to travel more details of the Government's welfare reform Green Paper tomorrow, evidence from America suggests the results of such policies are, at best, mixed.

monthly cheque does not do the trick.

This week a New York state survey found that only a third of families who left the rolls between summer 1996 and spring 1997 earned more than \$100 (£60) — the definition of "employment" — in a three-month period. In total, 490,000 people have left the state's welfare programmes in the past three years.

A federal study this week also showed that the gullotine is falling years earlier than expected. In one three-month period, nearly 40 per cent of those disappearing from rolls

were cut off because they missed appointments with their caseworkers or failed to turn up to work.

In most states, people can receive benefits for five years, provided they take part in job-search programmes. A Minnesota study showed that drug use and mental illness often lay behind people's failure to take part in even the minimum job-search programmes.

According to many state studies, people who have been denied benefits turn to relatives and friends for extra income. If their electricity is cut off, they may then raise extra cash by selling fridges, televisions and cookers. The experiments have not been running long enough to show what happens once the household appliances are gone.

In Wisconsin, a prosperous Midwestern state that has been a flagship for welfare reform, there is more encouraging evidence that people have made the leap into the workforce — but incomes are still very low.

The University of Wisconsin, which has tracked 25,000 single parents who had been on welfare, found that in a 15-month period, 18,000 of them had worked at least once, holding 42,000 separate jobs. But only 7 per cent had earnings equivalent to \$20,000 a year, and only 39 per cent were earning \$10,000 a year or more — the minimum wage level. A third had no recorded earnings at all.



Baroness Thatcher cuts a ribbon to open a British trade fair in Ras al-Khaimah in the United Arab Emirates yesterday. "All trade fosters economic relationships, and trade between people raises the standard of living of both peoples," she said

# Israelis plan to extend limits of Jerusalem

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

KOFI ANNAN, the UN Secretary-General, arrived in Jerusalem yesterday amid a fresh controversy over Israel's plans for the future of the disputed city.

Hours before Israel Television disclosed that Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, and Ehud Olmert, the Mayor of Jerusalem, are preparing a Knesset Bill that would expand the boundaries of the city westward to mark Israel's 50th anniversary, to be celebrated next month.

The report said that the Bill would be presented to the Knesset on Independence Day. Israel has announced that the anniversary will be marked over two days on April 29 and April 30. Al Gore, the US Vice-President, is the only leading foreign statesman who has so far pledged to attend.

The new proposal is understood not to incorporate Jewish settlements on occupied or annexed land to the north, east and south of the city, a move that would have had explosive consequences.

However, Israel Television's Channel 2 reported that it would include a clause that would "bolster ties" between Jerusalem and the strategic West Bank settlements of Maaleh Adumim and Givat Ze'ev, although it gave no further details.

The disclosure came on the eve of the arrival of Dennis Ross, the US peace envoy, carrying proposals for an Israeli withdrawal from a further 13 per cent of the occupied West Bank. Israeli ministers say they cannot contemplate handing over more than 9 per cent of the land occupied in 1967.

David Bar-Ilan, Mr Netanyahu's Communications Director, said that the Jerusalem extension plan was not new and had been considered by the previous Labour Government.

Moshe Leon, the new director-general of Mr Netanyahu's office, later told Israel Army radio that he supported the enlargement of Jerusalem.

"The settlements that you are talking about are very close geographically to Jerusalem, and there is no reason why economically, they should not

belong to Jerusalem," he said. Any change in the status of Jerusalem could upset fragile Israeli-Palestinian peace talks which have been in stalemate for over 12 months as a result of Israel's starting work building the giant settlement of Har Homa in east Jerusalem. Both Israel and the Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as their capital.

Defying international criticism, Mr Netanyahu assured members of the right-wing National Religious Party that building at Har Homa would go ahead.

"Before the end of my term [in 2000], I promise, there will be buildings at Har Homa," he told the delegation.

Mr Annan implicitly attacked Israel for beginning the project to house 32,000 Jews at Har Homa but adopted a much more low key approach than Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, who came under further bitter attack yesterday from Israeli media commentators, one of whom called him "cocky" and "self-righteous".

Mr Annan said cautiously: "If a peace process is ongoing, there is normally the desire that one does not really take any initiative that complicates the process."

German pledge: Gerhard Schröder, a leading member of the German Social Democratic Party, pledged during a visit to Jerusalem yesterday to foster continued awareness of German responsibility for the Holocaust and to maintain a special relationship with Israel if he is elected Germany's next Chancellor. (Reuters)



Schröder: pledged to keep up good relations

# White House attempt to protect Hillary 'ridiculous'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY CLINTON'S central role in the defence of her husband was brought into sharp focus yesterday as the White House tried to invoke executive privilege to shield her conversations from prosecutors in the Monica Lewinsky controversy.

Part of President Clinton's request last week to assert privilege on behalf of senior aides is said to have been intended to prevent Kenneth Starr,

the independent prosecutor, from inquiring about discussions between Mrs Clinton and Sidney Blumenthal, a White House spin doctor.

Those familiar with the investigation said that the White House was hoping to rely on two previous rulings to strengthen claims never before tested in court that Mrs Clinton should be protected by the presidential prerogative.

In Uganda, Mr Clinton declined to comment on the matter, instead referring questions to his lawyers in

Washington. But Republican critics savaged the notion.

"This claim is ridiculous," Bob Barr, a member of the House judiciary committee said. "There is simply no other word for it. Despite what she may think, the First Lady is not an elected official or appointed to represent one single American voter and has no basis upon which to claim executive privilege."

The Starr inquiry, frustrated by arguments over executive privilege, will be slowed further by the inclusion of Mrs Clinton. The effort to protect her highlights the extent to which she has been leading White House damage-limitation and raises the question of how her quasi-official role fits in America's constitutional framework.

Mrs Clinton has always been a central player in the White House, first during the disastrous management of the President's healthcare initiative in 1993 and later as a sometimes tacit but always influential defender in time of crisis.

When the Lewinsky affair erupted eight weeks ago, it was Mrs Clinton who marshalled close liberal associates to organise a defence for the President. Best in times of crisis, she appeared on television blaming the controversy on a right-wing conspiracy masterminded by her husband's detractors.

She has been silent since Kathleen Willey, the former Democratic volunteer, described how Mr Clinton allegedly groped her at the door to the Oval Office.

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# Loggers blamed as haze returns

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN JAKARTA

FEARS mounted yesterday of a repetition of last year's crisis when smog smothered South-East Asia as it emerged that Thailand and Malaysia are, like Indonesia, struggling to contain huge forest fires. A blanket of smog larger than the United Kingdom, envelops the eastern half of Borneo island. Fires have been also detected in Sumatra, Thailand and the Malaysian peninsula.

"The situation is definitely getting worse," Hartmut Abberger, a German fire-monitoring expert based in the Indonesian province of East Kalimantan in Borneo, said.

"Satellite data shows there are almost a thousand fires raging in East Kalimantan alone but the real figure is much higher than this as the satellites cannot see through the haze," he said.

Logging companies are being blamed for the crisis. The El Niño weather phenomenon has exacerbated the situation. "But El Niño does not carry matches," Sarwono Kusumaatmadja, Indonesia's former Environment Minister, said last month.

Hundreds of soldiers and thousands of civilians are fighting the fires across Indonesia but they have been hampered by a lack of water after nine months of practically no rain and little funds since the collapse of the economy.

# Expatriate families flee choking Brunei smog

THE wives and children of British expatriate workers in Brunei are being forced to leave their homes and flee the country to escape a suffocating shroud of Indonesian smog that descended over the country last weekend.

So far a handful of families have fled to Bali and many more are considering leaving so that children can escape the worst of the pollution. Yesterday Dr Haji Johar Dato Haji Noordin, Brunei's Health Minister, became the first minister to be dismissed by the Sultan, and with no official explanation. Newspapers said that the minister had failed to introduce measures to protect people from choking fumes drifting from forest fires now enveloping Borneo.

British citizens in Brunei have reported that much of the smog has been caused by agricultural burning within the country itself and that the scale of the problem is being denied by the Brunei and British authorities. A source living in Brunei with small children who refused to be named described how the constant stench of a bonfire filled their house: "We wake up every morning to the smell. Outside it looks like a freezing winter's day with thick fog just hanging in the air. We feel lethargic and sick and many people have had coughs. They've even closed schools early for the holidays and we just don't know what to do."

Over the past five days, the air pollution index in Brunei has registered 400. One English family was told by a

Malaysian doctor to evacuate the children if levels exceeded 150 AFI. The source said that the High Commission in Brunei had advised that it was not warning British families to leave because it feared reprisals from the Sultan, who was anxious to downplay the situation. The source said: "Because there has been such a stark silence from the all sides about the smoke and what we should do, it has made everyone much more fearful."

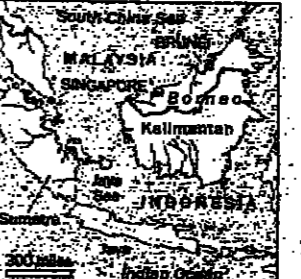
Americans living in Brunei have been told they may have to leave, and gas masks are being sent to families remaining there. Since fires swept across Indonesia last year, wiping out an area 10 per cent the size of Britain, the entire region has been suffering from varying degrees of smog. Health warnings have ranged from

unhealthy to hazardous. However, in recent weeks a second wave of fires have been started by the vast logging and palm oil industries which burn land to plant crops. Many areas of the Kalimantan region not destroyed by last year's fires are now burning.

Dr Stephen Howard, the Senior Forest Officer for the World Wide Fund for Nature, fears that these new fires, combined with El Niño, could become far more serious than last year's. If, as some research suggests, global warming and the rainy season does not arrive this year, then the long-term problems would be catastrophic.

In Brunei, the drought now gripping the whole region has added to the pressure on the British community to leave. Although official estimates suggest that water will be available for more than six months, many locals fear it will last little more than three. And while residents face water restrictions, the Sultan's polo fields are under sprinklers.

Efforts to monitor the spread of the fires through the launch of a new satellite today were belittled by Dr Howard, who said that the smog was now so thick that satellites could no longer detect the blaze beneath them.



# Brazil shunned firefighting aid offers

BY NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

INTERNATIONAL firefighting aid has been offered but repeatedly shunned by Brazilian authorities in the past five months, documents seen by *The Times* reveal.

With fires in the heart of the Amazon causing smog over Manaus in November, the United Nations Environment Programme made its first offer of help.

Vladimir Sakharov, head of the Office for the Co-ordination of Human Affairs, wrote: "We are currently mobilising

extensive international assistance to Indonesia, which is also facing extremely serious forest fires. It is believed that important experience accumulated with weeks of Indonesian fires could be usefully applied in Brazil." Further aid offers in December, February and twice in March received no reply.

The offers were addressed to Brazil's Environment Ministry, the permanent mission of Brazil in Geneva and the National Environmental Information Centre in Brazil. Yesterday Mr Sakharov, based in Geneva, said expert assessment and a co-ordination team on the

ground could have been achieved in 48 hours. International aid — money and equipment such as water-bombing planes — could have been in place in weeks: "We have lost some valuable time... several months," he said.

Sarah Tyack, of Friends of the Earth in London, said: "We are appalled that the Brazilian Government appears to have ignored this UN offer of assistance. They must wake up to the fact these fires are causing massive regional and global damage. Forests should have been too wet to ignite, but inroads by loggers had made vegetation dry enough to burn."





raelis plan  
extend limits  
of Jerusalem



Clinton Hounso in the film Amistad

SLAVE TRADE

THE exact number of blacks taken from Africa for sale throughout the New World remains in dispute. Estimates range from 10 million to 24 million and an unknown number never survived the sea voyage. At the time of the War of Independence in 1775, one in every six Americans was a slave and by the Civil War in 1861 there were four million slaves in the United States. Although the American slave trade began as early as 1619, slaves were not imported in large numbers until the rise of the Southern plantation system in the late 17th century. The American trade was concentrated on the West Indies where, with South America, the overwhelming majority of Africans imported to the New World were sold into bondage. Only about 10 per cent of these ended up in what is now the United States.

# Clinton says needs of Africa ignored in Cold War

FROM DAVID ORR IN MAKONO, UGANDA

BILL CLINTON yesterday came the closest an American President has yet come to apologising for Africa for slavery. "The United States has not always done the right thing by Africa," he said during a two-day visit to Uganda. "European Americans received the fruits of the slave trade, and we were wrong in that." In recent days his host in Uganda, President Museveni, said that the United States would achieve little by apologising for enslaving millions of Africans during the past century. He added that the US would do better to increase its trade with Africa and invest more in the continent. In his only public address during his Uganda visit, Mr Clinton also deplored America's treatment of Africa during the Cold War, saying his country had sacrificed the needs of Africans to US strategic interests. "The biggest mistake the



The Clintons, with President Museveni of Uganda and his wife Janet, watch children perform traditional dances at a school near Kampala

United States ever made with Africa was neglect and misunderstanding," President Clinton told a gathering of 5,000 adults and children at Kisowers primary school near the capital, Kampala. The American President spoke from a podium with a thatched roof and a base covered in bark cloth — a traditional Ugandan material made from tree bark. On it sat his wife, Hillary, and beside them President Museveni and his wife, Janet. Mr and Mrs Clinton arrived aboard a US Marine helicopter, touching down behind the school. On the outskirts of Mukono town, it is one of a number to benefit from teacher-training provided by American Peace Corps volunteers. Education, the main domestic issue for the Ugandan Government, was the chosen topic of President Clinton's speech. As a result of President Museveni's Universal

Primary Education (UPE) initiative, Uganda's school population doubled last year to 5.3 million students. The charismatic Ugandan leader has promised free education to four children in each family. President Clinton promised that Kisowers primary school, which has neither electricity nor telephone lines, will soon be connected on the Internet with a school in America. He told the children that they would be provided with

computers that would enable them to communicate with a school in the state of Maryland. The pledge to help the run-down school outside Kampala is part of a \$120 million (£72 million) initiative to fund education in Africa announced by President Clinton. Having visited some classrooms, the Clintons were escorted to a paddock near by where tribal singing and dancing was taking place. "Welcome to Uganda, have a nice time," the pupils sang as Mr Clinton, wearing a dark suit and a straw hat, and Mrs Clinton, clad in green, took their seats. The couple showed every sign of enjoying the spectacle, though seemed rather bemused by the fervour of some of the lyrics. "Oh, dear Americans," trilled the children, "we are so hopeful; your presence here today in Uganda promotes co-

operation. Mishandling funds, misinterpretation, shortage of classrooms and teachers, prevent UPE from flourishing. Provide materials, maintain funds, train more teachers, sensitise Ugandans, unite and work hard. We thank Museveni; we thank Americans. Support UPE! Support the rights of the child!" President Clinton is on the second stage of a six-nation tour of Africa — the first to the

continent by an American President since Jimmy Carter visited West Africa 20 years ago. This morning he is due to make a brief stopover in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, to commemorate the victims of the 1994 genocide. Before the couple leave for South Africa, the President will attend a regional summit for East African leaders in the Ugandan capital. **Leading article, page 19**

## Fuel crisis threatens Abacha junta

FROM SAM KILEY IN LAGOS

NIGERIA'S largest city was paralysed for the seventh day yesterday, raising tensions and sparking violent squabbles between police and army — upon which the country's military leadership relies to stay in power. Police in Lagos used teargas and fired live rounds into the air to disperse protesting students as tempers over the fuel shortage soared. In signs that the Government's supporters could turn against it, there were clashes between police and soldiers when they barged to the front of mile-long queues to fight over

petrol-pump hoses. Yesterday Lagos's military governor put an extra 2,000 police on standby amid fears that the junta's grip on power was slipping away. Some motorists spent their third and fourth days in cars waiting for petrol to be imported to the world's fifth largest oil producer. For most Nigerians there can be no better illustration of the corruption and inefficiency of General Sani Abacha's Government, which took over in a 1993 coup. While individual ministers, and the President himself, have raked in hundreds of millions of pounds on contracts to import refined oil, and export crude, ordinary Nigerians have gained nothing. According to diplomatic and oil indus-

try sources, only one of Nigeria's five refineries is working, and that at 50 per cent of capacity. Money set aside for refinery maintenance has been siphoned off into the private bank accounts of General Abacha's friends and allies. Yesterday the general appeared to acknowledge that the crisis threatened Nigeria's stability. He announced that millions of tonnes of fuel was being rushed to the city of eight million people. But he showed no sign of responding to entreaties by the Pope — during a three-day visit that ended on Monday — that he release more than 60 political prisoners, and continued to crack down on opponents.

## French envoys are accused

Paris: The French Embassy in Kigali prevented its troops from rescuing threatened Rwandans, a committee of MPs investigating France's possible role in the 1994 Rwandan genocide was told yesterday. French diplomats were accused by André Guichaoua, a university professor then in Kigali, and Claire Vidal, a social scientist, of turning a blind eye to the killings and of being manipulated by the culprits. (Reuters)

## UN forced out of Kandahar

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

THE United Nations has been forced to close its programme in Afghanistan's Kandahar province because of repeated attacks on its staff and constant harassment by the ruling Taliban Islamic Army. A UN official in Pakistan said yesterday that the organisation was withdrawing its 14 international workers from the province, which is also the headquarters of the Taliban Islamic Movement. The deci-

sion to pull out came after Taliban officials assaulted the UN staff on three occasions and ordered Muslim women workers to be accompanied by a close male relation. One UN staff member was slapped across the face and another was injured when a Taliban official hit him with a table. In a third incident an Afghan official threw a coffee pot at a UN worker. Last month Taliban expelled two UN Muslim women workers from the country. Sarah Russel, for the UN.

said in Pakistan that the UN had written several letters of complaint to the Taliban authorities, but the repeated assaults made it impossible for the UN work to continue. Kabul: Shia Muslim militiamen fired yesterday on a demonstration against factional fighting in northern Afghanistan. At least ten people were killed, independent sources said. Up to 2,000 protesters had gathered outside a building belonging to the Interior Ministry in Mazar-i-Sharif. (AFP)

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# Why football needs women (and women need football)

The resignation of two disgraced football chiefs has revealed that soccer may have at last woken up to the value of female support, says avowed fan Bridget Harrison

**I**f the resignation of the Newcastle United directors, Freddy Shepherd and Douglas Hall, has proved anything, it is that despite football's macho status, it needs women. Of all the scathing and lewd remarks the two men made to an undercover journalist, the line that stuck hardest in the collective throat is not their fondness for extramarital fornication or their contempt for loyal fans, but their dismissal of Newcastle's female population as "dogs".

The joy of football hit me one day seeing England in Euro 96

That, in the end, has been their downfall. Not only does the remark insult the city's men by questioning their taste in women, but more significantly it offends women. These days women matter to football because while many have discovered the game and realised they might actually enjoy it, the game has woken up to the value of female support.

than Prozac. The potential delight of football dawned on me one hot afternoon when England were playing Scotland in the group stages of Euro 96. While my girlfriends and I prepared a barbecue, a mob of boys sat in a darkened room, glued to the match.

Enraged by the incessant din of the telly, and the laziness of the men, I decided to wage war. But just as I began my tirade, I caught sight of Gazza storming, ball before him, defenders in pursuit, towards the Scotland goal. As he flipped the ball over a defender with one foot and whacked it to the back of the net with the other, I stopped in my tracks. The stadium exploded, the commentator wailed and I felt a surge of patriotism. I could barely name half the England squad, but I passionately wanted them to win. As Euro 96 unfolded, I found myself un-

able to resist joining crowds in pubs, singing *Football's Coming Home* while punching the air with each fist and making airplane movements to the tune from *The Dam Busters*. I then realised that the old cliché about a woman's Saturday night being ruined by *Match of the Day* does not always ring true.

The patriotic fun of supporting England is easy to explain, but for most fans internationally play a small part in football love. Having a passion for the game is more regularly about dedication to Your Team, as I began to understand when I moved to Shepherd's Bush and found myself five paces from the imposing blue walls of Loftus Road stadium, home of



Game for a laugh: Tilly Blyth and Bridget Harrison on their way to QPR. One in eight supporters is now a female

Queens Park Rangers. Still convinced that football was as tedious as the boys I knew who spent hours arguing about team placements and transfer fees, when male friends offered to take me to a match, I accepted out of curiosity.

QPR were playing West Ham United on April 21, at the end of the Premiership season in 1996. Having no grasp of the rules, I spent most of the match scouring the programme for pictures of the best-looking players and, I am

now ashamed to confess, missed the final three goals QPR scored in the Premiership because I was reading about Trevor Sinclair's modelling assignments for *Top Man*. So furious were my male chaperones that they swore they would never again waste their time taking me to a match.

I decided that I couldn't care less, until the regular Saturday match hubbub on Loftus Road began to get under my skin. Each week, normally

empty pubs teem with activity. Hot-dog and hat stalls are set up along the pavements and the police arrive on sleek horses to block the roads. Children decked out in blue and white gather on the stadium steps waiting for player autographs and the entire area seems to buzz with anticipation. So there is a certain kind of timeless romance in football. And as I watched the crowds of supporters marching intently past my door and listened to their cheers echoing from the stadium, I found myself wondering whether QPR had scored. You could

guess the game's result by the faces of the departing crowds and I couldn't help feeling sad if QPR had lost. I realised I wanted to go along with everyone else to see them do it.

There is little as exciting as the first glimpse of a football pitch, flanked by thousands of fans, all focused with passionate concentration on the future triumph of their team. Nothing is more uplifting than being swept up in a crowd, desperate for that goal — and sharing in the noisy elation when it is delivered.

Of course, there are women all over Britain who cottoned on to football long before I did and some, it is true, have decided that they can happily live without the game. But many more have become addicted. I have a girlfriend whose passion for Tottenham Hotspur causes her to scream such epithets at matches and in pubs that most male fans pale with embarrassment. Another I know dumped her boyfriend for going to an away match against Manchester United without her. On the BBC's fly-on-the-wall series covering Sunderland's fortunes, a schoolgirl describes how she is affected for weeks

when her team doesn't perform. Seven of the Liverpool fans who died at Hillsborough were female.

At every match I spot the same girl in the Lower Loft at QPR. She dresses meticulously in black and has a face like a china doll, consistently stony and impassive. During my first matches I reckoned she was dragged there each week by a boyfriend and was hating every minute. Then I caught sight of her once, just as we had scored a goal and saw that she was leaping up and down, grinning with unconstrained pride.

Strangely, men are still fiercely protective of their game. "You're not a proper fan," they'll complain. "When have you been to an away match on a freezing January night? I bet you can't explain the Christmas tree formation or appreciate the nuances of Brooking's post-match analysis."

Of course, they say that because football was once a place where men could get away from women, where they could relax in the safety of male company and say what they liked. That said, fundamentally women like football for the same reasons as men and whether men like it or not, female interest has had an impact. In the five years that women have started to flood through the turnstiles, football hooliganism has dropped markedly.

Those like Freddy Shepherd and Douglas Hall, who insist on perpetuating the status of football as a male preserve with a macho heart, have had their day. As the outraged women of Newcastle have proved, the voice of football may still be gruff but the sensibilities of those with shriller shouts cannot be ignored.

One girl left her boyfriend for not taking her to a game

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## Marriage is a trade-off

**WHENEVER** people start boasting about the pleasures of their otherwise unenviable state, it is their very defensiveness that makes me suspicious. The defiantly single lobby is a case in point. Who couldn't honestly declare that there are advantages to the single state? But once you start denying the disadvantages, seeing all other forms of domestic existence as compromised and generally displaying all the intolerance you airily deplore in others, you have, quite frankly, lost it.



I don't consider such bravado to be a surety desirable for all of us to make the best of what we've got. Thus Margaret Cook, formerly Mrs Robin but newly liberated, now lists the positive elements of her divorced state, citing, among other things, "less shopping, less cooking, less tolerating, less handling of phone calls, less humouring, less self-effac-

ing". I think we all recognise the description of marriage in that small summation: and yet, significantly, it can't be a complete or satisfactory description. But it makes me wonder: why, if nearly every woman identifies with the put-upon roll of humoured, smoother-over and general facilitator (the complaints about the merely practical burdens of domesticity are much less rancorous), do we all adopt this role so often?

No doubt people will accuse me of crimes tantamount to blaming the victims of domestic violence for their bruises, but I can't help feeling we are responsible. If women cared less about being liked, they'd find it easier to be horrible, to refuse to humour, smooth things over or generally facilitate. That might not aid peaceful cohabitation much, but we should accept that it's a choice

we make: we don't choose to suffer exactly, but to feel superior in our martyrdom. And, if anything, I think that being married allows one the freedom to escape such self-imposed martyrdom occasionally: being a girlfriend imposes a tremendous obligation to be nice. But even if it is true that marriage does bring with it such constraints, the traffic of advantages can't be all one way. What's in it for us, apart from the healthy, if deceptive, satisfactions of being Mrs Nice Guy? What list would a man give in support of the benefits of being divorced?

It's too clichéd to head this list with "the freedom to sleep around", and clearly anyway, men such as Mr Cook found marriage no impediment to this. But what men feel as one disadvantage of married life — and which women find as liberating — is the lack of effort about physical appear-

ance: ours. I'm sure the officers at Relate would be whistling through their teeth at such goings-on, but it is an undeniable fact that one of the chief pleasures of the married state is that one doesn't have to make an effort when one doesn't feel like it. One of the things I'd find so hard about being single is not having a life which involved lying on the sofa at night companionably watching television in baggy clothes, thick socks, unbrushed hair and no make-up.

You could argue that that is exactly what the single life offers: to do what you want, as you like it. But what I want are the benefits of solitude — the lack of effort or eye-rolling, the relaxation — only with company. A bit of gush-like attendance, some sympathetic fawning, seems a perfectly reasonable trade-off to me. Don't they say that marriage is all about compromise?

## Morality and Lolita

**I DON'T** believe in banning things; I'd be unhappy to live in a society in which the first instinct was to censor. I don't, therefore, argue that the film of *Lolita* should have been refused a certificate. But I am shocked at the speciousness of the argument in its defence. Apparently, the police, and some child psychiatrists, do not believe that the film could exacerbate paedophile behaviour. First things first: why is a child psychiatrist being consulted? It is the paedophile that is the issue here, not the "exacerbate" such behaviour, but I worry about the reason: a film of moral or dramatic exigencies. Artistically, it might make sense to try to show why an adult man feels justified in having sex with a child; but morality it begs all sorts of questions to try to give weight to that self-justification. Paedophiles do genuinely seem to believe that they are the victims, the child the predator; that they were seduced, not the seducer. To go along with that, even slightly, in the name of dramatic honesty, is a dangerous thing. A book is different: this book is different. It still poses difficulties I think, but with a film, without its complexities or brilliance, those difficulties are insurmountable.

Social historians may argue about whether child sex abuse is actually on the increase (many argue that it is just less well concealed) but the rise of the step-family, the exploitative tendencies of a fashion industry searching for young blood (and the willingness of many to collude with this), the erosion of many (albeit hypocritical) certainties have all contributed to create an environment in which perverted behaviour may be concealed or apologised for, no less than it was in more repressive ages. Sometimes revelation, however shocking, is good, a form of social spring-cleaning, but it can also send a dangerously deceptive air of normality. I understand, indeed accept, that the unexamined life is not worth living; but there are some things that you have to be a Nabokov to get away with.

## Ego, rugs and retribution

**TWO** women have won a claim for unfair dismissal, having been sacked for criticising the way their boss had decorated the office. They objected to the dim lighting and Persian rugs, the plants and arrangement of desks. The solicitor whose office it was felt their denigration of her taste to be a slight against everything she stood for. The boss in question was said to be tough, firm and overbearing — the sort of person, in short, who would, you'd think, have little time for office trivialities. But it goes to show that anyone, however confident, is a sensitive flower when it comes to having their taste criticised.

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# Fear and loathing in Hollywood

DAVID ROSE/RYGAM

Los Angeles is a great place to be if you've been nominated for an Oscar. But otherwise, it is simply terrifying, says Kevin Bacon. Interview by Barry Wigmore

**K**evin Bacon is full of angst. It is seven months since he last worked on a film. His most recent job was drawing a cartoon of Sporty Spice for his daughter's birthday cake. Now he has to get his work of art reduced because the New York baker says it is too big to copy in icing on to the cake.

"My daughter loves the Spice Girls," says Bacon with a grin, "so this is, like, my job, right? My job! So yeah, I want to go back to work. It's difficult, though, because we're a very close-knit family."

He scratches his head. "Maybe I'll have to find another baker."

The film credits to Bacon's name are impressive. Since bursting on to the scene as a teen idol in the 1984 hit *Footloose*, he has played key roles in a string of powerful movies: *JFK*, *A Few Good Men*, *The River Wild*, *Apollo 13*, and *Murder in the First*. He made his name specialising in psychotic weirdos — twitchy, edgy characters — then showed that he could transform himself with more complex roles.

out there, scares me, yeah. Just too much time spent in cars, too. I really like to walk. In Manhattan I walk 40 or 50 blocks a day. Always walking."

In the film world there are those who toe the company line and live on the West Coast, and the few — Robert De Niro, Paul Newman, Whoopi Goldberg and Kevin Bacon among them — who live in the east. And so Bacon, 39, sits in the high-rise safety of a Manhattan skyscraper, talking about love and marriage, his wife, kids, dog, farm and horses, about east versus west.

And about his work. Has there ever been a more honest star than this?

"There are actors who put bums on seats," he says. "And I'm not one of those people. I've been in a lot of successful movies, but I can't pull people in. I mean, not with any kind of guarantee." He pauses and thinks a moment. "At least not, you know, this week."

But the movies kept courting him. *Footloose* followed *Animal House*, and Bacon found he was one of the few to have fought to get his picture off the front cover of the US showbiz magazine *People*.

"I didn't respect it, you know. And I was not ready to embrace being a pop star, teen idol, sex symbol, because it was somehow undermining my seriousness," he says.

"Of course now I'd love to be on the cover of *People*. But they don't want me. So the only time it happened was with *Footloose*."

**T**here are stars who put bums on seats. I am not one of those.

thinks again, then tries to explain those fears. "In the course of a career, an actor spends a lot more time being unsuccessful than being successful. Unfortunately, that's just the way it is."

"Los Angeles is a great place to be when your movie is No. 1, or you're nominated for an Oscar, or you have just landed the lead in a new Scorsese film. But you feel that way maybe one month in every five years."

"For the rest of the time when I'm there I feel like a loser. I feel like I'm surrounded by reminders that I'm not, you know, at the top. Not at the top, top of the top. These days, away from L.A., I'm comfortable accepting that."

One little independent film, unlikely to change this pattern but certainly worth a visit, is *Telling Lies in America*. Bacon's latest starring role, which he finished before the extended period of "resting".

Opening in Britain soon, and set in the early days of rock 'n' roll, it is about crooked disc jockeys, the backhanders they demand to plug records, and the payola scandal that followed.

In it Bacon plays another of his quirky characters, an un-

scrupulous disc jockey with a big red convertible and a foolproof way of taking bribes. These were the days when DJs had an enormous influence on what teenagers thought and bought, and much of the story is based on a personal boyhood experience of the screenwriter Joe Eszterhas. Look, too, for a wonderful character cameo by the veteran Oscar winner Maximilian Schell.

Bacon decided early in his career on the kind of actor he wanted to be. As a teenager he moved to New York to work as a writer and study acting. He was soon offered a part in *National Lampoon's Animal House*. It was such a success that it spawned a television series called *Delta House*, and he was offered a long, fat contract to join it.

At the same time he was offered a ten-week, walk-on part in a theatre workshop play with a two-week run in New York. He called his agent and said he was taking the play.

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"Of course now I'd love to be on the cover of *People*. But they don't want me. So the only time it happened was with *Footloose*."

**H**is decision to be a serious actor was followed, he admits, by ten years of strange movie choices, some of them awful. But during that time he made *Lemon Sky*, a TV film for America's "arty" channel, PBS. His co-star was Kyra Sedgwick, best known for playing opposite Tom Cruise in *Born on the Fourth of July*, and John Travolta in *Phenomenon*.

Bacon and Sedgwick have been married for ten years and have two children, Travis, 8, and Sophie, 5. The family is, Bacon says, "my reason for being". They split their time between Manhattan, the Connecticut farm and Los Angeles, when the work takes them there. Summers are best because all the family travels together.

"I'm very old-fashioned," he says, carefully choosing his words. "I believe you should think long and hard about getting married. And men should wait longer than women because most men are ill-equipped to be married in their early 20s. A lot of men



Portrait of a resting actor: Kevin Bacon, after an enforced period of inactivity, has his hopes riding on a new film, *Telling Lies in America*

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and women marry in their 20s, then ten or 15 years later he's polling his hair out and thinking 'I'm missing my life'. They get divorced. He turns around when he's 40 and marries someone in her 20s. I say well, wait, wait till you're 40 and marry someone in her 20s. Women are so much faster to be emotionally ready for commitment. Of course, I'm generalising here," he adds hastily.

As he waits in marital bliss for the right role to come along, Bacon has launched into a musical career with his brother, Michael. The Bacon Brothers have just cut their first album. Called *Forasoco*, it is a mix of folk, rock, soul and country, mostly written by themselves.

You would think his fame would open music industry doors. Not so, he says. "For three years we've played small clubs, 400 seats, 500 seats, and sometimes big venues, opening for another band. But we got turned down by major labels all over the place."

Jon Bon Jovi plays back-up on our record, and he's got a similar experience the other way round. He wants to act but it's tough getting the movie industry to take him seriously.

So, Bacon waits for the right film offer to come along, or his record to make it in the charts. And while he waits, the movie star porters around at home. He has put up a cupboard with a wonky bracket, ridden his horses across Connecticut, and walked all over Manhattan — looking for a baker who can draw a picture of a Spice Girl.

● *Telling Lies in America* opens in London and selected cinemas on April 3

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**ARTS**

How the cultural polyglot Michael Morris is bringing the cream of the Western world's avant-garde to Britain's stages

Pages 35-37



### Alan Coren



Just one small snip from me, but one giant snip for mankind . . .

I have just washed my hair, and I can do a thing with it. I can populate the stars. All I have to do is decide whether this would be a good thing to do with it. If I decide that, then my next move will be to disentangle five hairs from this wet comb, tape them to a piece of paper, and post them, along with 50 dollars, to Mr David Goldstein. He will do the rest.

It is a major rest. For Mr Goldstein is a senior banana at Encounter 2001, the Californian consortium which, as you may have read last week, plans to build a spacecraft designed to carry the hairs of four-and-a-half million Earthlings — five hairs from each, at ten bucks a sprout — into the interstellar unimaginedness. How the company arrived at that curiously precise figure of 22.5 million hairs, the report does not tell us — though a shrewd guess might be that the project was costed out at 225 million dollars, that someone at the boardroom table described this as a hair-raising sum, and that a lightbulb then clicked on above Mr Goldstein's own head — but what it does tell us is what Encounter 2001 is hoping on the hairs' behalf: it is hoping not simply that they will fetch up, eventually, against some distant star, but also that this star will be populated by beings so smart as to twig that they could manufacture Earthlings by cloning them from the DNA blueprints in the hair.

Long odds, eh? Even if the spacecraft does bump into something, even if it doesn't explode into a thousand bits upon bumping, even if the bummer is inhabited by a creature crazy enough to come running at the bump, even if the rumber does discover, later, the bonful of hairs, mightn't there still be an outside chance (you should know that we have, so far, already reached odds of approximately a trillion squillion to one) that it will assume the hair to be no more than packing material, and rummage thoughtlessly through it in the hope of finding a carriage clock or a personal organiser, or whatever it is that intelligent beings in outer galaxies send off for, allowing 28 days for delivery? It is not, however, these remote<sup>100</sup> likelihoods which are currently delaying my envelope to Mr Goldstein. On the contrary, what stays my plucking finger from the comb this morning is the yet remoter one that his crackpot scenario might actually play for real: which is to say that one fine day, however many light years off, the hairs will indeed arrive at the only star in the Milky Way prepared to do more than merely shine and twinkle, where the residents, when a rocket demolishes their birdbath and a box of hairs falls out, will cry: "Wow! An Earthling kit", and immediately rush round to the local cleaners.

Because that is where my worries really begin. It is all very well for a hair to boldly go where none has gone before, but how bold might it have to be when it gets there? Not only do I not know what shape, literally, I should be in when cloned, a vulnerable baby, a spotty teenager, the middle-aged wreck at the top of this column, nor who my four-and-a-half million new compatriots might turn out to be (can we doubt the presence of the raving mad gene in the DNA of many of those prepared to fork out fifty bucks on this bizarre enterprise?), I know even less about Mr Goldstein's putative Milkians. While he is no doubt praying that his millions of potential subscribers will imagine them to be just as they themselves are — cheery Middle-American humanoid who will, while waiting for the hair to come back from the regenerator, spend their time stocking welcome-wagons, lighting barbecues and getting their bowling-balls down from the shelf — they could just as easily be Broodingnagian fans of Subbuto who will expect my hapless clone to spend the rest of his life running about in Crystal Palace strip, or inconceivably repugnant items of some unEarthly sexual orientation who will expect even worse, or worse even than that, slavering omnivores who have spent their lives wondering whether there was edible life in other galaxies.



"LE TAT, C'EST MOI!" Paris France 25 III '98

## Goodbye Carlton-Browne

Mr Cook's assault on the closed shop of the Foreign Office may be doomed — but diplomacy should take the warning seriously

I have never coveted an ambassadorship. It is one of those jobs, like running an Oxbridge college or chairing an arts charity, in which form outranks substance. I prefer careers the other way round. Diplomacy's defining occasion is a successful dinner, its worst catastrophe an ill-timed truth. Ambassadorship is an advocacy profession. Like the Bar, its practitioners are regarded as most successful when sailing closest to the wind of mendacity. Their motto has to be *suppresso veri, suggestio falsi*.

Nonetheless, Monday's news that ministers want to cast their net wider in search of ambassadorial talent must have set even the dullest heart racing. What Walter Mitty has not dreamt of standing, white-suited, on a tropical lawn, sipping a gin and bitter while a band plays *Rule Britannia!* and dusky maidens hand him communique's of peace and war? Who cares about the small talk when it is 90 in the shade, the Rolls is purring at the door and a gong is waiting on ice? Thank you, Robin Cook. A good embassy should round off the banquet of life. It is the brandy and cigars of the modern portfolio career.

There are just two hitches. The first is that the diplomats will have none of it. The department rates second only to the Royal Navy in defending its flagships. It saw off the first great assault on its closed shop, the 1977 think-tank report, and has been dismissing threats and critics ever since — in the nicest possible way. Even the report never dared to suggest open competition for ambassadors. This must explain poor Mr Cook's recent mishaps. He has already been subjected to the well-known Kashmiri water torture, the Baghdad thumbscrew and the dreaded West Bank gaffe. His office will ensure that these horrors continue as long as the ambassadors proposal stays on the table.

### Simon Jenkins

and waiting always for a better post. Promotion is by age and experience. Status is skewed towards political reporting, most of it a waste of time, and trade promotion, most of it a waste of money. Aid and cultural exchange, increasingly central to foreign relations, still languish below the salt. The essence of ambassadorship is to be a certain sort of person (which could be anyone), not to possess a certain sort of skill (which must be learned).

## Cook's fizz

OUR hero hardly smoulders with dark good looks, nor does he quite dance the world stage with masculine assurance. But Dame Barbara Cartland is set to cast Robin Cook in her next book. The Foreign Secretary, philanthropist and carrot-top, will certainly recognise himself in the planned work. Once Cook is repackaged as a swashbuckling dandy, the title promises to contain all the elements of a cracking bodice-ripper: a wife spurned, a mistress, a secret mistress for whom he would give up every thing (even an audience with the Queen), Dame Barbara, who with delicate taste has always avoided writing about such sleaze, has finally decided that the sad web of Robin, Margaret and Gaynor needs to be chronicled.



store in Warrington. Now the Lord Chancellor denies such a plan, but an aide suggests: "It had to be abandoned as he just isn't the sort of man who could carry it off."

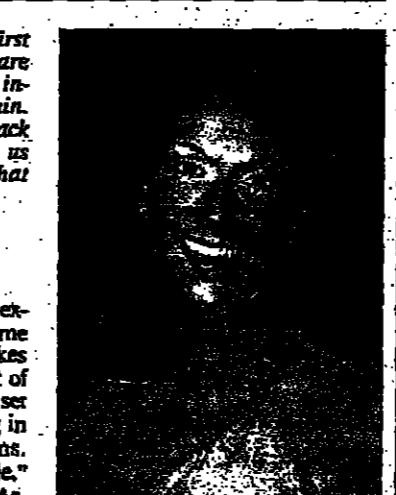
literary departure for Dame Barbara (pictured with Cook). I am relieved that her faith in family values is undiminished. "The scene at the airport was disgraceful," she says of Cook's announcement that his future lay in the arms of Gaynor. "We are being let down. We need gentlemen."

the brokering. Publication is set for spring 2000 — a good time to hole William Hague under the waterline, perhaps.

Me, Tarzan AS if he was not rich enough already, Michael Heseltine is to bag £250,000 for his long-awaited autobiography. The battle between six publishers has been won by Hodder & Stoughton. For that sort of money, the former Deputy PM will be expected to report fresh stories about his run-ins with Margaret Thatcher, and even John Major. The title is still being chewed over. "Some people are very keen for it to be called *Hezzy* but we are not sure if Michael is agreeable," says one involved in

ael Williams was enjoying a first night in London. Publishers are salivating: "We would be very interested indeed," says Penguin. "Particularly if she tracked back through shooting." And told us what she really thinks about that beastly Helen Hunt.

That's cool MF's have decided they need an extensive refurbishment programme in the Commons which makes Irvine's efforts look like a spot of DIY. £6.5 million has been set aside to install air-conditioning in 16 first-floor committee rooms. "The heat can be unbearable," says a clerk to the Commons Accommodation and Works Committee, which approved the expenditure. Plans have just been submitted to Westminster council. The needs of TV must also be met. "They don't like fans whirring during recording. Miniature microphones will be installed."



CELINE DION, whose tiny Titanic theme won an Oscar on the back of the film's success, was not part of the director's original plans. James Cameron was determined to have an instrumental piece, but James Horner, the composer, had other ideas. He secretly hired a lyricist and asked Ms Dion (pictured) to record it, presenting Cameron with a full-on comp. "When she sang it everyone burst into tears," says one excited type. The result, as they say, a melodramatic dirge.

## Russian roulette in the Cape

R.W. Johnson says Mandela and Yeltsin rule over mafia states

As Bill Clinton's presidential progress across Africa carries him to Cape Town today, Russia is in turmoil after Boris Yeltsin dismissed his Government on Monday. The coincidence is a reminder of the time, not so very long ago, when the world watched events in Russia and South Africa with heady excitement. The abolition of apartheid under F.W. de Klerk and Gorbachev's transformation of the Soviet Union, made it possible to hope that the boldness of the two men's reforming vision would be rewarded with a successful transition to democracy.

In one sense that hope has been fulfilled — both South Africa and Russia now hold regular multiparty elections — but Gorbachev and de Klerk soon vanished into obscurity. The disintegration of the Soviet Union was followed by vertiginous decline of Russia's economy and the sight of an ailing President presiding over the world's first mafia state.

The question increasingly asked by South Africans is: how far does our country differ from that model? The question is not just rhetorical: the World Economic Forum recently placed South Africa behind only Russia and Colombia in the significance of organised crime within the country.

The French Africanist Jean-François Bayart recently drew attention to "the criminalisation of the African state" — that is, the penetration of state structures by racketeers. He believes it is not so much a question of the State being overwhelmed by crime, as of greedy politicians and criminals building a symbiotic relationship: smugglers lead frontiers, as he puts it, and what better way to launder money than through a central bank?

How far has this process gone in South Africa? The lax state of law and order makes the country a natural for money-laundering and the breakdown of the Customs service has resulted in a flood of smuggled arms and drugs. At the same time, a number of international crime syndicates have set up shop.

There are other signs, too. The recent rash of cash-in-transit robberies, involving more than £12 million, have clearly been carried out by former members of MK, the ANC guerrilla army. Many of the robbers seem to be members of the security forces and there is apparently high-level political involvement, with politicians instructing the police to lose key documents. One former MK soldier, Robert McBride, an official in the Foreign Affairs Department, is in jail in Mozambique facing gun-running charges.

Meanwhile, an official inquiry has found that the Minister of Housing awarded a large contract to a personal friend. The minister's chief servant resigned in disgust, but both President Mandela and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki have backed the minister — who remains in office. The Minister of Health similarly broke the rules to hand a large amount to the playwright Bongani Ngema. She, too, remains in office. Currently her sister is also under investigation for the large-scale malversation of funds.

On Mkhwanazi, chairman of the Government's Central Energy Fund, has handed a huge contract to a shady Liberian, Emmanuel Shaw II, who in turn is paying large amounts directly into Mr Mkhwanazi's account. A government inquiry has recommended that Mr Mkhwanazi be sacked. But the Minister of Energy and Mr Mbeki have backed him, and he remains in post. It is a matter of public record that the Minister for Public Enterprises accepted a bribe from the hotel magnate, Sol Kerzner, but she, too, has received Mandela's and Mbeki's backing. Corruption is also rife in many of the provincial governments.

More recently we have seen the Cabinet trying to ram through the quack Aids remedy, Virodene, against the anguished protests of the Medicines Control Council — only for it to be revealed that the ANC had been offered 6 per cent of the shares in Virodene. President Mandela has refused demands for an inquiry. Meanwhile, in Cape Town gangs have captured control of much of the city's municipal housing. This is an impressive list but it still does not put South Africa in the same league as Russia; indeed, the head of the police force boasts of (small) reductions in a number of types of crime. True, the Government is remarkably open to crooked businessmen of every kind — partly because of the greed of the new elite but also its sheer naivete. Crucially, South Africa did not fragment like the Soviet Union, but has done the opposite, incorporating all the old bananists. And the economy has grown steadily.

BLAIR  
DRIE





## BLAIR IN FRENCH

A call for democracy, diversity and flexibility

In European diplomacy the Prime Minister's "Third Way" turned out to be a mixture of *Entente Cordiale* and *Vive la différence*. Tony Blair's speech yesterday to the French National Assembly was carefully crafted to stress the ties across the Channel, not least in defence, while at the same time acknowledging, even celebrating, areas of divergence between Paris and London. The Prime Minister chose to address his audience in their native tongue, exploiting the fluency gained in his youth to emphasise his affection for France. But his choice of language enabled him to do more than just flatter his immediate audience. If German, the language of Clausewitz and the blitzkrieg, is the tongue of the warrior and fanatic, from the Renaissance onwards, the language of the opera house, then French is the choice of the diplomat or philosopher — the medium of Talleyrand and Voltaire. As such it is the perfect language for Blairism. The French love of the abstract, delight in euphemism and skill in managing ambiguity all make Blairism's points more palatable. Like a Provencal salad, the Prime Minister's words are even more attractive smothered in Gallic.

The meat of the Prime Minister's address certainly needed careful preparation before presentation. Although he paid tribute to his hosts and prayed in aid his own youthful enthusiasm for the European ideal, Mr Blair came not to praise the model of integration which had driven the Continent but, politely, to bury it. In the chamber from which the ubiquitous political labels of Left and Right were first derived, Mr Blair proclaimed a "Third Way" which not only transcended that division but also envisaged a new future for Europe. The vision he outlined was not integrationist on the past model of Monnet or Schuman, although both received their ritual nods, but neither was it intergovernmental in the manner outlined by Margaret Thatcher in her

Bruges speech of 1988. Mr Blair made democracy, diversity and flexibility his rallying cry. While they may prove as capable of subversion and redefinition as the original revolutionary trio of *liberté, égalité, fraternité*, they definitely mark a different emphasis from that which prevails in continental chancelleries.

But by deploying his delicate abstractions Mr Blair still spoke the language of continental political elites. There is a danger that, without concrete policies to give expression to these ideals, the words may deconstruct under pressure. A French audience, schooled in the critical theory of thinkers such as Saussure and Derrida, will recognise that words can become free-floating signifiers capable of infinite interpretations unless they are strictly anchored to a recognisable reality.

Mr Blair directly acknowledged during his speech that flexibility, for example, was capable of different interpretations in different tongues. In European negotiations flexibility has been interpreted by past British Governments to mean each nation progressing at its own speed but none deliberately excluded; other nations have taken it to mean the exclusion of those nations, usually Britain, whose veto could sometimes impede progress. In economic terms the French fear that flexibility is a code word for Anglo-Saxon turbo-capitalism at its most heartless. Mr Blair was determined to impress upon his audience that flexibility was their friend, the only intelligent response to fickle global markets.

Previous British politicians have tried to educate the French in the virtues of flexibility but their tone has grated on a nation which still enjoys higher GDP and prides itself on intellectual independence. Mr Blair, by recognising French achievement and also couching his message in appropriately philosophical tones, may have a better chance of winning converts.

## Sinn Fein's return to Ireland talks

From Mr J. F. O. Switzer

Sir, As Sinn Fein returns to the all-party talks its reiterated demand for "powerful all-Ireland bodies... operating independently" (report, March 23) should be seen in a new context.

The British citizens of Northern Ireland have for many years felt abandoned by their Government, being told that it regarded its role as merely that of an umpire, with "no selfish strategic or economic interest" in their future. In January the Government changed all that by ratifying the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (signed in 1995), so bringing its provisions into force in the United Kingdom on May 1.

The Convention, the first legally binding European agreement in this field, sets out the principles to be respected and the obligations which flow from them for the effective protection of national minorities "within the rule of law, respecting the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of states" (my italics). Throughout, the emphasis is on the rights of persons within the member states, and while the Convention refers to "measures to ensure trans-frontier co-operation" (Article 18), there is no mention anywhere of cross-border bodies with executive functions.

The Governments of the Republic of Ireland and of the United Kingdom are signatories to the Convention. They are also both committed by the 1993 Downing Street Declaration to promote co-operation at all levels on the basis of the... international agreements to which they have jointly committed themselves, and the guarantees which each Government has given and now reaffirms, including Northern Ireland's statutory constitutional guarantee.

As partners in the European Union the two Governments are now in a position, for the first time, jointly to promote a settlement applying the terms of the Convention which will, "without prejudice to the constitutional and territorial integrity" of the United Kingdom, ensure the effective protection of the Irish nationalist minority living in Northern Ireland.

Yours faithfully,  
J. F. O. SWITZER,  
Sidney Sussex College,  
Cambridge CB2 3HU,  
March 23.

## Legal aid fees

From Mr Leslie M. Oliver

Sir, Mr Michael Harman (letter, March 12) wonders what happens to the 10 per cent of legal aid which is not taken up by lawyers' fees.

In the course of defending a case, lawyers frequently have to instruct experts and obtain reports from them. Those experts have to be paid. Less frequently, defendants' solicitors (usually via the Legal Aid Fund) are expected to pay fees which they would not normally be expected to pay.

In a recent case in which we have been acting for one defendant, but in which there are two other defendants, the judge adjourned for pre-sentencing reports, asking also for a psychologist's report on each defendant.

The probation officer in court asked the judge if he could order that the costs of those reports be met by defence solicitors, in effect out of legal aid funds rather than out of Probation Service funds. The judge so ordered.

Yours faithfully,  
L. M. OLIVER,  
Leslie Oliver & Co (solicitors),  
Shaftesbury House,  
49-51 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, W5 5SA,  
March 16.

From Mr Jeffrey Gordon

Sir, In my view, both your leading article of March 5, "Irvine's law", and Mr Michael Harman are wrong in suggesting that 90 per cent of legal aid is "swallowed up by lawyers' fees".

Most lawyers' fees are subject to VAT at 17.5 per cent, effectively reducing the percentage of take by 15 per cent. In addition, there is the recovery of costs in personal injury and matrimonial property claims, costs that would have been awarded to successful defendants, disbursements paid to doctors, and court fees paid to the Government.

In real terms, I doubt whether more than half legal aid goes to lawyers.

Yours faithfully,  
JEFFREY GORDON,  
Jeffrey Gordon & Co (solicitors),  
1 Lavender Sweep, SW11 1DY,  
March 13.

## Taking a bow

From Mr G. M. Beresford Hartwell

Sir, It may well be *à la mode* for some to deride those who choose to show courtesy, whether it be to the Sovereign or their fellow citizens.

There is no rule that an individual, tennis player or not, should curtsy or bow on the tennis court or anywhere else. It is a matter of politeness. I cannot accept Mr R. V. Kentley's suggestion (letter, March 21; see also letter, March 12) that politeness is somehow degrading.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY HARTWELL,  
40 Brambledown Road,  
Wallington, Surrey SM6 0TF,  
March 21.

Business letters, page 27

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Trials of trying to marry in church

From the Reverend Canon John V. Roberts

Sir, I could not agree more with the comments of Mr (Michael) Rose (letter, March 18) about the difficulties he and his family have experienced with the Faculty Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury in trying to obtain a licence for his daughter (temporarily working and living in Italy) to be married in a Church of England church.

I too, as an incumbent, have on several occasions had difficulties with the Faculty Office in obtaining a special licence to permit a marriage, of which I was fully supportive, to take place in our church here. I have been made to feel that my judgment in these matters is of little importance.

Such attitudes as Mr Rose describes are indeed off-putting and seem to me to be contrary to the Gospel we are advocating. Isn't it about time that the Archbishop's Registrar brought himself and his colleagues at the Faculty Office into the 20th century and recognised that their narrow interpretation of the law is actually hindering Gospel ministry?

I do believe that they want to help and to do what is right, but I'm afraid it seems that they imagine people are still living in an age of social immobility and full local employment.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN ROBERTS,  
The Rectory, 67 Church Road,  
Woolton, Liverpool L25 6DA,  
March 18.

From Mr David de Galle

Sir, Mr Rose's daughter and son-in-law belong to a growing tribe of astonished, if not bewildered, Christians turned away on their wedding day from the Church of England's door.

My son was offered a choice between the Guards Chapel (if the wedding date he was a retired short-service officer) and a church he did not know north of Hyde Park (where he had a *piet-à-terre*; his fiancée was offered "her" Anglican parish church in southwest London (she is a Catholic); both wished to be married in Kent, where each had longstanding but non-parish connections.

The wise vicar of the Kent parish prepared them conscientiously and conducted the full marriage service — except that they signed the Service Register rather than the Marriage Regis-

ter (which had been denied them by the Archbishop). They had been compelled to endure an ungody, heartless register office marriage in London the previous day.

The Archbishop's assistant Bishop, with whom I corresponded patiently and at length, also pleaded the lack of longstanding personal connection with the parish chosen. Charity and longstanding membership of the Church of England is immaterial?

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID DE GALLE,  
Dernford Barn, Sweffling,  
Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2BQ,  
March 18.

From the Reverend Mrs Patricia Newland

Sir, When conducting a Church of England marriage, a minister has a number of conflicting responsibilities. These are, first, to ensure that the marriage is legally sound; secondly, to support the institution of marriage wherever it has taken place; and, thirdly, to proclaim the Gospel of repentance and forgiveness and therefore the possibility of starting again.

The position would be greatly simplified, and in my view helped, if the first of these responsibilities were removed. If the Church gave up its legal role, issues of residence, the calling of banns, special licences, and the need to make judgments about previous marriages, if there are any, would be removed. Instead all couples would have to be married by a civil registrar before coming to church.

A service of marriage blessing would then be available to all who really want it, and the Church could concentrate on offering pastoral care and support and preaching the Gospel. This new service would include appropriate vows of commitment, and it would remove a very great source of disappointment and conflict at the parish level.

It would also enable the Church to welcome all newly married couples making a genuine commitment to each other and to bless their future life together.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICIA NEWLAND,  
Ickleton Lodge,  
14 Frogge Street, Ickleton,  
Salfron Walden, Essex CB10 1SH,  
March 19.

## Defence decisions

From Sir Derek Day

Sir, In his report today on the planned Forces shake-up, your Defence Correspondent states that "in 1982... the Foreign Office insisted, against MoD advice, that HMS *Endurance* be withdrawn from the South Atlantic".

On the contrary, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Carrington, wrote on several occasions to the Defence Secretary, John Nott, opposing the MoD decision to withdraw *Endurance*, arguing that this would send the wrong signal to Buenos Aires.

If the Argentine decision to invade the Falklands was triggered by this decision, which is debatable, the fault lies elsewhere than at the door of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK DAY,  
(Deputy Under-Secretary of State,  
Foreign and Commonwealth  
Office, 1982),  
Etchinghill,  
Goudhurst, Kent TN17 1LP,  
March 23.

tant intervened and apologised profusely to me. When I told her that I would hand over my film to her with the greatest pleasure, as she was so gracious, but that I objected to the anger and rudeness to which I had been subjected, she said that it was not necessary for me to do so and that she trusted me not to use the film.

When I volunteered to write on a piece of paper that I had no intention of using it, she said that that too would not be necessary. But I insisted.

Yours,  
MARCELLE D'ARGY SMITH,  
Editor, *Woman's Journal*,  
IPC Magazines Ltd,  
King's Reach Tower,  
Stamford Street, SE1 9LS,  
March 20.

## Phone code changes

From Mr Mark Mathiason

Sir, You reported today another change to the telephone codes, to take place in April 2000, in six areas of Britain. Unlike previous changes, we are told (later editions only) that "there can be no guarantee" against further changes after that.

Yet again the real issue is avoided. We do not have a consistent telephone code structure. In many areas the area code is four digits, in other areas it is five digits, and the proposed 020 code for London reintroduces three digits.

You report a spokesman as saying that "most people do not want to change their number unless there is a compelling reason". That may be true, but since I am now facing a third change in approximately ten years, I would have been happy to make one radical change if it avoided two subsequent changes.

Instead of doing too little, too late, why do we not think further ahead and make a significant change which will endure for longer than that proposed?

Yours faithfully,  
MARK MATHIASON,  
M. A. Mathiason & Co  
(Information technology consultants),  
25 Kingshill Drive,  
Harrow, Middlesex HA3 8TD,  
March 20.

From Mr Adrian Fisher

Sir, I would like to propose the following new Heritage telephone exchanges: 0-1066 for Hastings, 0-1805 for Portsmouth and 0-1940 for Biggin Hill.

Yours sincerely,  
ADRIAN FISHER,  
Victoria Lodge, 5 Victoria Grove,  
Portsmouth, Hampshire PO5 1NE,  
adrian@mazemaker.com  
March 20.

## Alarm over forest fires in Brazil

From Professor Philip Stott

Sir, We must be very cautious before applying the much misused phrase "environmental catastrophe" to the Amazon vegetation fires, as Major Edison Oliveira has done in Brazil (report, March 24), and which has also been used in the past to describe fires in Indonesia (World in brief, same day).

Fire has always been, and always will be, an integral part of tropical environments, including the tropical rainforests, under which lie layers of ash giving witness to many former fires, great and small. The savanna grasslands burn annually or biennially, and must do so for their proper management. In both formations large fires have always been associated with drier years.

Although regretting deeply any human costs resulting from some of the present fires, we must not automatically equate these problems with wholesale ecological collapse. Tropical ecosystems change and adapt constantly to fire, and fire is normal. Simply representing them as yet another gut-wrenching world environmental disaster is little more than "green" overreaction and hype.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP STOTT,  
(Professor of Biogeography,  
University of London),  
24 Claremont Place, Windmill Hill,  
Gravesend, Kent DA12 1LD,  
01555-2432@compuserve.com  
March 24.

From the Director of Forests Forever Campaign

Sir, May I take issue with the assertion (leading article, March 19) that the timber industry is in part responsible for the environmental disaster in the Brazilian rainforest, as logging companies "pave the way for... subsistence farmers who follow behind them to slash and burn". The timber industry deplores this process.

The Brazilian logging industry can only operate under licence to Ibama (the Brazilian governmental environmental agency), which approves a forest management plan for the logging concession to minimise damage to the surrounding forest, and agrees the number of individual tree species to be extracted annually. Where selective felling is carried out in accordance with the regulations, widespread damage to the forest can be avoided.

The granting of forest concession permits decreased by 70 per cent in 1997 in the area of forest which can be logged, and the number of permit applications has decreased. Annual permits granted for logging mahogany in 1997, one of the principal tropical hardwood species exported by Brazil, were 90 per cent fewer than in 1996, and the number of companies approved by Ibama to log mahogany had decreased from 90 to 18.

In 1994, 218,000 cubic metres of timber was imported from Brazil by the UK, of which only 41,000 cubic metres was tropical hardwood lumber. Most of the rest consisted of softwood plywood from plantations in the south of the country.

The UK timber trade appreciates that there are concerns about the legality of tropical timber from Brazil and is working on a pilot log-tracking project for Brazilian mahogany in association with the Brazilian Government to complement Ibama's existing inspection procedures.

There is no question that the fires in the Amazon, and also in Indonesia, are an environmental disaster, but to blame the timber industry indiscriminately only damages the environment further in the long term by encouraging people to turn to alternative materials — plastic and metal — which can have a far more negative environmental impact during their life-cycle.

Yours,  
PAUL C. MARTIN,  
Director, Forests Forever Campaign,  
Timber Trade Federation,  
4th Floor, Clarendon House,  
26-27 Oxendon Street, SW1E 4EL,  
March 23.

## Victorian conditions

From Mr John McNicholas

Sir, It is good to read that at last all schools are to have indoor lavatories (report, March 20). But I notice in another report, in my edition, that the Government does not propose to ignore every Victorian practice: Margaret Hodge, MP, wants teachers to be paid by results. Again!

Perhaps this will spread to the NHS. I like the idea of doctors being paid if we recover.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN McNICHOLAS  
(President, National Association of Head Teachers, 1993-94),  
41 Eppleworth Road, Cottingham,  
East Riding of Yorkshire HU16 5YF.

From Miss Tamsin Seymour

Sir, Who would not applaud David Blunkett's promise of cash to eliminate schools' outside lavatories?

I spent my own recent schooldays in a Victorian building with exterior "facilities". I vividly remember the discomfort, the cold, the damp, the mould growing up the walls — and the toilets weren't a great deal better.

Yours faithfully,  
TAMISIN SEYMOUR,  
99 Station Road,  
Liss, Hampshire GU33 7AQ,  
seymourliss@clara.net  
March 20.

## CLINTON IN AFRICA

A better tour than it looks

Bill Clinton's six-nation, 12-day tour of Africa invites scepticism. The speed at which the President will carve through the continent, the 600-person entourage with him and the set of problems that he has left behind in Washington all suggest that this is primarily a public relations exercise. It has echoes of Richard Nixon's spectacular trip between Cairo and Alexandria in 1974, after which his spokesman offered the optimistic assessment that so many cheering Egyptians could not be wrong. It would be the triumph of innocence to imagine that the White House will not attempt to extract some direct benefits from Mr Clinton's travels. Equally, it would be the triumph of cynicism to underestimate the potential advantages to parts of Africa that will also occur.

The continent has been the forgotten casualty of the collapse of the Cold War system. In the 1970s, as part of their worldwide struggle, both the United States and Soviet Union sought to exercise influence across Africa. Every regional conflict produced a superpower alignment. As this contest primarily required external support for regimes, however unsavoury they might be, African governments had little reason to reorder their economies and every incentive to engage in corruption. The collapse of the Soviet Union simply offered the United States the opportunity to disengage itself.

This tour will do much to redress that balance. With the exception of his brief stop in Rwanda, the countries chosen for the President's cavalcade have had to satisfy at least one of two conditions. They are either relatively well-established democracies, by African standards, such as Botswana and Senegal, or they are relatively recent

democracies that have made substantial economic progress after decades of decline, for example Ghana and Uganda. South Africa is a special case of a market democracy all of its own. Mr Clinton has excluded certain large nations (Nigeria and Sudan) and notable economies (Kenya and Zimbabwe) because of their failure to make real progress towards political pluralism. That message will not pass unnoticed.

The President is also selling something stronger than symbolism. In recent weeks, the Africa Growth and Opportunity Bill has been making its way through Congress. It was backed by the House of Representatives earlier this month and should clear the Senate soon. This legislation will offer duty-free access to the enormous American market to those countries that adopt economic reform and enlarge electoral democracy. It is this prospect that provides substance to the "trade not aid" slogan. It will be the centrepiece of the summit that the President will attend today.

This will not in itself alter Africa's future. There are several nations — Burundi, Liberia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone — that remain in a desperate condition. Africa is increasingly dividing into two camps, one of them is determined to deal with the developed world while the other is slipping towards Fourth World status. There is little that Mr Clinton can do about that. The President can help to promote those countries that have undertaken essential change and introduce them to an invariably ignorant American corporate sector. This will provide powerful leadership through example. Whatever else Mr Clinton's tour might be, it is not a waste of his time.

## DRIFTING TO DEATH

A fishing ban that is long overdue

Modern driftnets are known as "walls of death". Set at, or near, the surface of the sea, they are intended to mesh tuna, swordfish and salmon. But their indiscriminate trapping of larger species is ruinous. Dolphins, whales, sharks and porpoises are profanely entangled and drowned.

On a small scale driftnets, made traditionally of hemp or cotton, have been used for centuries in coastal waters. But with the manufacture of cheaper synthetic materials, this mode of fishing was transformed. By the 1980s nets of up to 50km in length were being deployed. So extensive were their depredations of marine wildlife that in 1989 a UN resolution was passed to ban them. The worst offenders — Japan, Taiwan and South Korea — agreed to phase them out.

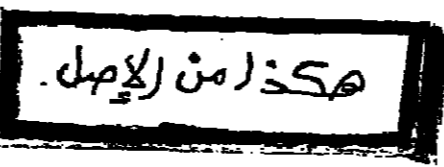
The European Community also responded, setting a maximum length of 2.5 km for driftnets. For many fisheries this proved uneconomic. They had to close, or adapt their vessels. But some infringed restrictions. Only under pressure of a US embargo did the Italian Government initiate a decommissioning of driftnetters. The French, Irish and British too still deploy driftnets. Dolphins, wreckfish and blue sharks struggle and die. Those winched up alive are often damaged. Dolphin beaks are broken; porpoise flukes are lacerated.

An EU proposal to outlaw driftnets has been on the books since 1994. Now, with the British presidency of the Union, Elliot Morley, the Fisheries Minister, has declared

it a priority to push through a total ban. Yesterday, at the Fish Council in Brussels, he spoke of offering compensation to the small Cornish fleet which would be affected. He is widely backed by other ministers, not least by Loyola de Palacio of Spain. In 1990 the Spanish converted their entire trawling fleet to the "rod and pole" system. Baiting the water with small fry, they use powerful aqueous jets to create a blinding turbulence, before hooking individual tuna up on lines. This method is not only environmentally sound, but it provides better quality fish. A driftnetted animal may have been dead in the water for more than ten hours before it is landed. The Spanish have offered not only to help British fishermen to adapt to their system, but also — despite festering hostilities over quotas — to guarantee them friendly passage into Spanish ports.

If all goes according to plan, driftnets will have been banned by the year 2000. But Ireland, France and Italy are still opposed. They are pressing for more time. While drifting continues the marine environment is under severe threat. The striped dolphin population is depleted by 2 per cent every year. Some 83,000 blue sharks are thought to have been destroyed in one season. Britain must stand hard by its proposals. When a final decision is announced, probably in June, it should be a stringent one. The end for a sector of the fishing industry is a severe outcome. But it is not as drastic as the depletion of the seas.





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 24: The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning. The Duke of Edinburgh...



The Windsor Castle Nine with the medals they received from the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday.

The Queen honours Windsor Castle restorers

BY ALAN HAMILTON
THE QUEEN yesterday honoured eight men and a woman who had played key roles in the £37 million restoration of Windsor Castle after the 1992 fire...

Birthdays today

Sir Brian Bailey, former chairman, Health Education Authority, 75. Sir Frank Barlow, former managing director, Pearson, 68...

Memorial service

Major Timothy Tunell
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Major Timothy Tunell will be held yesterday at the Guards Chapel...

School news

Merchant Taylors School
Spring 1998
The following Scholarships have been awarded:

Church news

Appointments
New Archdeacon of Swindon
Canon Alan Hawker, Team Rector, Southgate St Mary, and Rural Dean of East Gristead...

Royal engagements

The Duke of York, as Commodore, will attend a dinner given by the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge, at 7.45.

Luncheons

The Middle East Association
The President of the Board of Trade was the guest of honour and speaker at the annual luncheon of the Middle East Association...

Mr Tony Bambridge

A memorial service to celebrate the life and work of Anthony M. (Tony) Bambridge, managing editor of The Sunday Times...

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: King Henry II, reigned 1154-89. The Mans, France, 1133. Joachim Murat, soldier, King of Naples, self-styled Joachim Napoleon...

Dinners

Foundation for Science and Technology
The Rev. Dr. John Marcell, Priest-in-Charge, St. Peter's, Highgate, will be the speaker...

Latest wills

Tom Hodgson, of London E14, left estate valued at £2,570,294 net. Peter George Coles, of Milton, Portsmouth, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,064,508 net.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

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When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman under the law, to die for our sins...

WALLER - On 5th March to Jane (nee Waller) and David Waller, 60. A devoted husband and father...

WARD - On 5th March 1998 to Mrs. Joan Ward, 84. A devoted mother and grandmother...

WILSON - On 23rd March 1998 to Mrs. Joan Wilson, 84. A devoted mother and grandmother...

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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR SIR DEREK BARTON

Professor Sir Derek Barton, FRS, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, died on March 16 in College Station, Texas, aged 79. He was born on September 8, 1918.



Sir Derek Barton was one of the great chemists of the 20th century. He shared the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1969 with Odd Hassel for a striking discovery, described in a paper of just four pages, which led to a new field of chemistry. He revolutionised research and the teaching of organic chemistry at Imperial College of Science and Technology in London, and continued to make major contributions to research until the day he died.

Derek Henry Richard Barton was born in Gravesend, Kent. After Tonbridge School, he joined the family carpentry business but soon commented that there "must be something more interesting in life". He applied to university and chose Imperial College simply because it was the most expensive in London and therefore he thought it would be the best. After two years, he graduated in 1940 with a BSc in chemistry, and continued research in the same department with Professor Ian Heilbron, work which led to a doctorate in 1942. During those war years he was excused night-time duty in South Kensington when a medical examination deemed his heart to be weak. He joined military intelligence for two years, and worked on secret inks for use on paper but on skin behind enemy lines.

On his return to Imperial College, after a year in industry, Barton began his independent academic career. Ironically, he was not appointed to a position in his speciality of organic chemistry, but lectured in physical chemistry. In 1949 he decided to move to

America, and in 1949-50 he was a Visiting Professor at Harvard, where he worked closely with another well-known organic chemist, Robert Burns Woodward. Barton joined in the heated discussion about the unusual reactivity of steroids.

His conclusion, based on studies of the reactivity of certain steroids and closely related isomers, was that the physical arrangement in space of the functional groups was responsible for the different rates of reaction. This was born conformational analysis, which altered the way in which chemists think about

the shape and reactivity of molecules in three-dimensional space.

Barton returned to London as a Reader at Birkbeck College, where he taught part-time for three hours in the evening but had the rest of the day for research. He continued to work on conformational analysis and the chemistry of steroids. He also discovered the importance of phenol oxidative coupling, which led him to propose the metabolic pathways by which a poppy makes morphine and other alkaloids.

From Birkbeck College he moved to Glasgow University to become Regius Professor of

Chemistry. In Scotland Barton observed that the pockets of the university seemed to be bottomless. His creativity in the realms of synthesis continued unabated, with important work on santonin and photo-

chemistry. In 1957, after two years in Scotland, Barton returned to his alma mater, Imperial College, as Hofmann Professor of Chemistry and head of the organic section. He continued to make a myriad of original contributions to natural product research, for instance in the application of radical chemistry to antibiotics.

During the 1960s and early

1970s, the chemistry department at Imperial College was ruled by the triumvirate of Barton, Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson and Richard M. Barrer, all strong-willed men of science.

Since he constantly smoked fine Havana cigars, students were well aware when Barton was patrolling the laboratories to ask: "Do we have anything new to report?" They became insecure when he suddenly quit smoking and the tell-tale aroma vanished.

After 21 years at Imperial College, Barton retired at the age of 60 and became director of L'Institut de Chimie des Substances Naturelles at Gif-

sur-Yvette in France, where he studied the invention of new chemical reactions, especially using radicals, so opening up a whole new area of organic synthesis. In 1986 he moved to a third career at Texas A & M University as Distinguished Professor and subsequently Dow Professor of Chemical Innovation. He continued to work on novel reactions involving the oxidation of hydrocarbons, whimsically termed Gif and Go-Agg oxidations.

The author of more than a thousand papers in chemical journals, Barton also held many successful patents. In addition to the Nobel Prize he received many honours and awards including the Davy, Copley, and Royal medals of the Royal Society of London, the Roger Adams and Priestley Medals of the American Chemical Society and many honorary degrees. He was a Fellow of the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh, a foreign associate of the National Academy of Sciences (USA) and a foreign member of the Russian and Chinese Academies of Sciences. He was knighted in 1972 and received the Légion d'honneur (Chevalier 1972; Officier 1985) and Japanese Order of the Rising Sun. In his long career, he trained more than 300 students and postdoctoral fellows, many of whom now hold major chairs of chemistry.

Barton travelled the world lecturing and acting as a consultant in companies and universities. In ten years he flew more than three million miles, and seemed hardly to suffer jet lag. He ate heartily and enjoyed fine wine. He had a well-defined sense of humour, to those who knew him well, although most found him aloof. He had attended two conferences in honour of his 80th birthday and others were planned.

He is survived by his third wife, Judy, and by a son from his first marriage.

LEONARD DANIELS

Leonard Daniels, former Principal of Camberwell School of Art, died on February 24 aged 88. He was born on November 28, 1909.

ALTHOUGH he was an accomplished painter, Leonard Daniels will be best remembered for his long career as an art teacher in schools and in further education. He was Principal of Camberwell School of Art for 27 years and even after retirement he was, to his delight, much in demand as a part-time teacher.

He continued with his own work, though he did not exhibit regularly. His drawings especially have a quality of great fluidity, and were executed with superb skill and perception.

Leonard James Daniels was born in London and in youth showed significant promise in athletics, particularly on the running track, where he achieved standards of potential Olympic quality. He was also a keen long-distance cyclist. He became a student in the art school of the Regent Street Polytechnic and went on to the Royal College of Art in 1929. His particular interest in portraiture was given a strong boost when he was awarded the Royal College of Art's portrait prize in 1932, and during the 1930s he exhibited at the Goupil and Redfern galleries.

After the Royal College of Art he taught successively at Claydon School, Dorset, and Taunton's School, Southampton, before taking a post at the new Southampton School of Art. During the war the college received a direct hit which killed and injured many of the staff and students who were gathered in a basement air-raid shelter.

With the College of Art at Portsmouth also incurring damage from air attacks, students from both colleges were evacuated to joint facilities in Winchester. Daniels

was closely involved in the organisation of this move and in the academics. He was an able lecturer with a secure command of his subject and an exceptional ability to guide young students in their development as artists. But he was also good at stimulating lay audiences.

During the war he was commissioned by the War Artists Advisory Commission, and his work is represented in the Imperial War Museum and Southampton Art Gallery. He also painted a mural for the wartime British Restaurant in Winchester. Unfortunately, in an accident on night firewatch, he lost the sight of one eye.

In 1943 he was appointed head of the school of painting at the Leeds College of Art, before his ultimate appointment as Principal of Camberwell School of Art, where he remained until his retirement in 1975. Among the many distinguished members of staff at Camberwell in his time were William Coldstream, Victor Pasmore, Robert Medley, Michael Rotherstein, Edward Ardizzone and Richard Eulich.

Daniels's qualities were recognised by his peers when in 1965 he was elected to the presidency of the National Society for Art Education.

He enjoyed travelling, and a Leverhulme study bursary in Italy in 1957 — based in the British School in Rome — and sabbatical leave in the South of France in 1972 gave him welcome opportunities to extend his painting interests.

After retirement from Camberwell in 1975, Daniels continued to give critical appraisals and lectures, and was seldom without a sketchbook in his hand. In his later years he did many portraits, until in the late 1980s poor health restricted his activities.

His wife died in 1967, but he is survived by their daughter, Kate.

SIMON WINGFIELD DIGBY

Simon Wingfield Digby, Conservative MP for West Dorset 1941-74, died on March 22 aged 88. He was born on February 9, 1910.

A SCION of the well-known Dorset family that had sent many of its members to the House of Commons, Simon Wingfield Digby enjoyed the distinction in his later years of being one of the few surviving figures from the wartime Parliament. First elected unopposed under the wartime party truce in 1941, he went on to represent West Dorset for 33 years.

Never the type of MP to set Thames on fire, he did, however, enjoy a more than five-year period of office under both Churchill and Eden as

Civil Lord of the Admiralty (in effect junior minister for the Navy). From 1957 onwards, however, he was more than content to sit on the back benches — even without the handle, which he always affected to despise, he was the prototype old-style knight of the shire.

Kenelm Simon Digby Wingfield Digby, as he was baptised, was the son of Lieutenant Colonel F. J. B. Wingfield Digby and the grandson of J. K. B. Wingfield Digby, himself a former MP for North Dorset. From a thoroughly traditional background, he received an equally traditional education, first at Harrow and then at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he read history.

As a young man he made a



special study of international affairs and he was one of the British delegates to the International Studies Conference of 1934. He travelled round the world — as was the habit with affluent young men of those days — and in 1937 he was

duly rewarded when he was selected, at the age of 27, to stand for the traditionally Tory territory of West Dorset.

Had it not been for the war, he would probably have found himself in the House of Commons before he was 30, but the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 meant the postponement of any general election for what turned out to be nearly six years. Digby, however, was more fortunate than some other prospective candidates in that his predecessor grew bored with keeping the seat warm for him and in 1941 insisted on resigning.

At that relatively early stage of the war there were seldom any by-elections — a position that was to change later with the advent of Sir Richard Acland's Commonwealth Par-

ty and a rash of independent candidates coming forward. The young Wingfield Digby, who was already in the Army, was thus able to sail into the House of Commons without even having to engage in any contest.

He played little part in the business of the Commons during the war, being taken up instead with his duties as a staff officer both at home and in North-West Europe. He was a supporter, however, of the Tory Reform Committee — along with figures such as Lords Hailsham and Hinchinbrooke — and he resigned from it only on being appointed an Opposition whip in 1948.

From there it was only a short step into government office at the Admiralty when Churchill — a collateral connection of his through Randolph Churchill's brief marriage to his kinswoman Pamela Digby — formed his postwar administration in October 1951.

Digby's ministerial career fell victim to Harold Macmillan's arrival in Downing Street in January 1957. Yet after being consigned to the back benches he neither sulked nor repined, becoming chairman of the Conservative backbench forestry sub-committee and serving on the Council of Europe and in the Assembly of the Western European Union, where he became Conservative leader in 1972, just two years before his retirement from the Commons.

He spent that long retirement living at Sherborne Castle in his native Dorset, interesting himself in fishing, bloodstock and breeding. Simon Wingfield Digby had married, in 1936, Kathleen Kingsmore, the daughter of a Canadian judge. She survives him, together with a son and a daughter.

LALITA PAWAR

Lalita Pawar, actress, died on February 24 aged 79. She was born in Indore, central India, on April 18, 1918.



IN A cinema tradition which thrived on the exaggerated representation of wicked mothers-in-law as the fount of all evil, Lalita Pawar was easily "the queen of mean". A fixture in Indian cinema for nearly four decades, she acted in more than 600 Hindi and Marathi films, unassuming viewers with her trademark squint and domineering manner. Although she played a variety of roles, the image of her which endured was that of a nasty older woman out to make life miserable for the younger woman who had had the misfortune to enter her household.

It wasn't always that way. Pawar began her career as a child star in the era of silent movies. A chance encounter with the veteran director N. D. Sarpadkar in Pune at the age of nine led to her being drafted into the film business. In 1928, she played the leading role in *Arya Mahila* ("Aryan Woman").

Her earliest film for which a print is still extant is *Diler Jigar* ("Callant Heart"), an historical romance made in 1931. The film was directed by Ganpatrao Pawar, whom she subsequently married. In it she played a Zorro-type adventuress, a role she would return to often.

The introduction of sound saw her stock as an actress rise further. Her first talkie was *Himmat-Mard* ("The Bravery of Man") and her performance in *Duniya Kya Hai*, based on Tolstoy's *Resurrection*, was critically acclaimed. Pawar would later look back upon those days with great fondness. "Even though money was less," she

said in a 1994 interview, "we were treated with a lot of respect."

An accident during the shooting of a film in 1942 led to her left eye developing a squint. Film lore has it that she was slapped so hard during a scene that one side of her face was paralysed, the truth is that she suffered an attack of facial paralysis while shooting an underwater sequence either way, her days as a heroine came abruptly to an end.

Beginning with *Ramshastri*, a 1944 Marathi film in which she played a scheming wife, Pawar used her frosty looks to launch a second career. *Dahej* ("Dowry"), made in 1950, marked her debut as a mother-in-law. In the film, she drives away her son's bride for failing to bring enough dowry

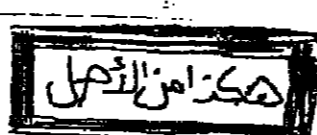
and pushes him towards a second marriage. Most of her roles as mother-in-law revolved around similar themes. Part of the reason why they struck a chord with audiences was because they accurately reflected contemporary social mores and attitudes.

Her first marriage to Ganpatrao Pawar ended in divorce, as did her union with the music director Hamman. Those who knew her spoke highly of her compassionate nature, as exemplified by her portrayal of a kind-hearted landlady in *Anari* ("Novice") (1955) or a nurse in the 1970 film *Anand*. Since she never had any children, it can never be known what kind of mother-in-law she would have been like in real life. She died alone in her flat in Pune, leaving no survivors.

PERSONAL COLUMN

WANTED, OVERSEAS TRAVEL, DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS WANTED, FLIGHTS DIRECTORY, FLIGHT SEEKERS, FARESAVERS, JETLINE, ANNOUNCEMENTS, SARGENT CANCER CARE FOR CHILDREN, AUTOMOBILISM, ON THIS DAY, TICKETS, TICKETS, TICKETS, ALL TICKETS!, FOR SALE, SITUATIONS WANTED.

EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY, COMBAT STRESS, AUTOMOBILISM POSSIBILITIES OF ELECTRIC CARS, ON THIS DAY March 25, 1913, propelled vehicles. The cost of charging varies in different localities, but generally speaking an average of 4d. per unit may be taken. Experience has shown that a small car propelled by the Edison storage battery can be run from London to Brighton on 13 units, at a cost of 6s.6d. for current.





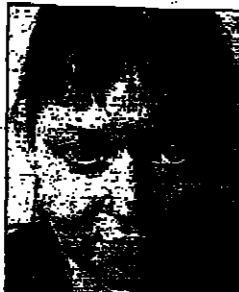




# THE TIMES

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TODAY



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**ARTS**  
Sharon Stone submerges herself in her new role  
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**SPORT**  
Gascoigne to join Middlesbrough in time for Wembley  
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**TELEVISION AND RADIO**  
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY MARCH 25 1998

## Boots to launch off-the-shelf health insurance



Lord Blyth: £8 million press launch

**BY SUSAN EMMETT**  
BOOTS, the high street chemist, is to sell health and travel insurance in a partnership with Royal & Sun Alliance, one of the UK's largest insurance companies.  
The chemist will offer a range of nine health and travel insurance products which can be bought in a pack "off-the-shelf" in 250 of its largest stores from April 15.  
Shoppers will be covered as soon as the insurance pack is swiped through the till. Boots will market the products to the seven million customers who have an Advantage card, which was launched last summer. It is expected to sell about 250,000 policies in the first year, rising to one million at the end of five years. The company is

specifically targeting regular customers who have not bought insurance before.  
The company, whose chief executive is Lord Blyth, is spending £8 million to support the launch and soon will start a television and press advertising campaign.  
The product range comprises five health cash-plan schemes which will be linked to NHS care. They include family health, dental and accident cover. The four travel insurance schemes include cover for annual, single trip, winter and gap year travel.  
Steve Russell, the managing director of Boots, said the move was a natural extension of the Boots brand and emphasised that the company had no plans to become a fully-fledged financial services provider or to enter banking. It would be

offering private medical insurance either. He said: "We will use Boots The Chemist's retail skills to position and sell the products — literally selling them over-the-counter and offering customers instant insurance cover."  
Boots's entry into the £1 billion market for health and travel cover was welcomed by Direct Line, the telephone financial services provider which has been campaigning against the selling methods used by travel agents and tour operators. The travel agents and tour operators industry holds 75 per cent of the travel insurance market.  
Direct Line said: "Anything that helps break the monopoly of tour operators and travel agents in the travel insurance market is good news for the consumer."

Bob Clark, the manager of Thomas Cook travel insurance, said that any competitor entering the market was a threat but that travel agents are still the best placed to sell insurance.  
The Boots family medical cover provides 16 different benefits, ranging from help with optical fees to prescription charges. It offers two levels of cover, namely the Silver plan, costing £8 a month, and a Gold plan, at £16 a month.  
Dr Penny O'Nions, a medical insurance specialist, said: "The problem with hospital cash plans is that they tend to act like a sponge or a Swiss cheese. People tend to fall in the gaps through ignorance, believing that the plan is going to offer fuller cover than it does."

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	5983.7 (+36.7)
Yield	2.72%
FTSE All share	2796.85 (+13.13)
Nikkei	16806.39 (+262.44)
Dow Jones	8897.96 (+81.71)
S&P Composite	1104.32 (+8.77)
GBP RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/8% (5 1/8%)
Long Bond	103 1/8% (103 1/8%)
Yield	5.87% (5.89%)
3-MONTH LIBOR	
3-month interbank	7 1/4% (7 1/4%)
Libor long bill	108 1/2 (108 1/2)
future (Jun)	108 1/2 (108 1/2)
STERLING	
New York	1.6757 (1.6760)
London	1.6757 (1.6757)
DM	3.8656 (3.8654)
FF	10.2715 (10.2740)
SFr	2.4680 (2.5018)
Yen	218.43 (218.49)
£ Index	107.8 (107.8)
US\$	
London	1.8272 (1.8282)
DM	6.1248 (6.1220)
SFr	1.4895 (1.4895)
Yen	130.17 (130.17)
£ Index	109.5 (109.7)
Tokyo close Yen	129.91
Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$15.00 (\$15.00)
London close	\$301.05 (\$293.35)

## Halls to reduce family stake in United

**BY JASON NISSE**  
THE Hall family is to cut its 57 per cent stake in Newcastle United following the resignation of Douglas Hall, whose father, Sir John Hall, rescued the club from obscurity in the early 1990s.  
Sir John yesterday agreed to return as temporary chairman of the club — which is owned by the publicly quoted plc — after Mr Hall and Freddy Sheppard, the previous club chairman, resigned after ill-advised comments published by a Sunday newspaper.  
The Times has learned of behind-the-scenes moves to sell at least part of the stake held by Cameron Hall, the Hall family's company, to cut the family's influence. Sir Terence Harrison, the plc chairman, said cutting the stake was an option. "It would not be opposed by the board," he said.  
He was speaking as

## 'Relegation is not part of our business plan'

Newcastle United revealed an 80 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £111 million in the six months to January 31. Earnings rose 16p to 7.8p a share and there is an interim dividend of 0.6p.  
Jo Dixon, the group's finance director, admitted the results were flattered by the team's run in the European Champions League and the fact that a disproportionate number of the team's home games fell in the first half.  
The team is now perilously close to relegation from the Premiership but has reached the semi-finals of the FA Cup.  
Freddy Fletcher, the group's chief executive, would not say how much dropping out of the top flight would cost Newcastle. "Relegation is not part of our business plan," he said.  
Commentary, page 25

# Pressure on Granada over price for Savoy

**BY DOMINIC WALSH**  
GRANADA faces mounting pressure to compromise over the price at which it will sell its 68 per cent stake in the Savoy Group if it wants to avoid derailing the sale of the luxury hotel operator.  
Although several potential bidders have approached the Savoy, with indicative offers of about £500 million, Granada and the trusts controlled by the Wontner family are said to have reached an impasse over the division of the spoils. The shares, driven 25 per cent higher on bid hopes, shed 8 1/2 p yesterday to £18.  
The auction, which is being handled by Baring Brothers, Savoy's City advisers, appeared to be well advanced last week, when the Savoy board admitted that it had "received a number of approaches". It has received about half a dozen serious approaches, with US predators Starwood Lodging, Medtrist, Blackstone Group and Patriot American Hospitality leading the field.  
But the Savoy's controversial two-tier share structure, which famously enabled the Wontners to keep the Forke family at bay, is once again causing friction. Gerry Robinson, the Granada chairman, is pressing for his company's 68 per cent, which carries just 42 per cent of the votes, to receive a higher proportion of the proceeds, claiming that the trusts' ability to muster 50 per cent of the votes is now in doubt.  
Sources suggest the trusts are looking for a fivefold premium for their high-voting B shares, whereas Granada is said to have mooted a figure of no more than 2 1/2 times. At a sale price of about £500 million, this would mean Granada receiving about £295 million compared with £320 million if Mr Robinson gets his way.  
A source close to the negotia-



Interest in the Savoy has grown with the improved results since the arrival of Ramon Pajares

## Matalan founder fashions £178m cut at float

**BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM**  
RETAIL CORRESPONDENT  
JOHN HARGREAVES, chairman of the Matalan discount clothing club, is set to make around £178 million for himself and his family when the company that he founded 13 years ago is floated in May.  
Mr Hargreaves, 54, who began his career selling clothes from a market stall, has guided the Lancashire

company through rapid expansion that has seen it grow from eight to 75 outlets in the past seven years. Customers of the out-of-town stores join the club for £1 and are then entitled to buy brands such as Ben Sherman, Wrangler and Lee Cooper at discounted prices.  
Mr Hargreaves and his family own 89 per cent of the shares and plan to retain a 65 per cent stake after flotation. His three children, Maxine,

Jason and Jamie, all work in the business as buyers. Mr Hargreaves, who lives near the company's Sleaford headquarters, is head of the buying department as well as executive chairman.  
Day-to-day running of the business is left to Angus Monro, chief executive, who formerly worked for Kingfisher. Kingfisher came close to buying Matalan in 1994, the year in which the company last considered flotation. Mr Monro and Ian Smith, finance director, between them have a 5 per cent stake.  
Matalan is expected to be valued at about £200 million. Up to 35 per cent of the shares are to be placed with institutional investors.  
The flotation looks unlikely to clash with that of another clothing retailer, New Look, which had been preparing to come to market this spring. Its timetable appears to have

## Banks face data privacy inquiry

**BY RICHARD MILES**  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT  
THE watchdog for data privacy is to investigate allegations that banks and building societies routinely dump confidential customer information on the streets.  
A report in today's edition of Punch magazine alleges that many of the country's biggest banks do not shred confidential data, but leave it in bins outside the branches.  
Its investigation — a rummage through the bins outside branches of Halifax, Barclays, NatWest, Lloyds TSB, Midland and other banks — unearthed unused cheque books, unexpired credit cards, security codes for branches and accountholders' details.  
At one branch of Barclays in Bayswater, West London, Punch says it found a computer printout listing thousands of customers, their account numbers, type of account, balances and overdraft limits.  
David Smith, assistant data protection registrar, said he was concerned that this type of information had been disposed of so insensitively, and that he would have to consider an investigation.  
If any of the banks or building societies are found to have broken the Data Protection Act, they could face an unlimited fine. However, the watchdog is more likely to impose an enforcement notice, aimed at ensuring there is no recurrence of the incident.  
The British Bankers' Association said it would consult members about the article, but emphasised that security arrangements were the responsibility of individual banks.  
Lloyds TSB, one of the banks mentioned, said it had launched an investigation into how such sensitive documents had not been shredded. It said: "This is an isolated incident, and we do not believe it is a widespread problem."

## Battle for Midlands descends into farce

**BY RICHARD MILES**  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT  
THE battle for control of Birmingham Midshires threatened to descend into farce yesterday after the building society said it could not recommend an agreed £630 million offer from the Royal Bank of Scotland.  
Mike Jackson, chief executive of Midshires, said he no longer believed the price was "fair and reasonable". As a result, the society could not publish its transfer document next month, and payouts to its 1.2 million members would be delayed beyond the autumn.  
However, the Midlands board is prevented from opening talks with Halifax, which two weeks ago tabled a bid of £780 million, because RBS holds an exclusivity agreement until the end of the year.  
Dr George Mathewson, chief executive of RBS, said he was disappointed at the rejection of the offer. He said: "Over the next few weeks, we will be considering, with our advisers, our position under our legal agreement with Birmingham Midshires."  
A spokesman for Halifax said: "This has turned farcical. We hope the Royal Bank will allow the Birmingham Midshires to talk to us. Our offer is significantly better for the society's members."  
Mr Jackson said the board was unable to recommend the RBS offer in the circumstances, "including the near 50 per cent increase in the value of retail banks since last August".  
Commentary, page 25

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### GTech in 'candid' Oflof meeting

By Jon Ashworth

DIRECTORS of GTEch, the American lottery operator, spent nearly four hours yesterday seeking to convince officials that they should remain part of the National Lottery.

Tim Holley, the Camelot chief executive, accompanied the GTEch board of directors in their discussions with John Stoker, the acting lottery regulator, Bill O'Connor, GTEch's chairman and chief executive officer, said the meeting with Oflof had been "candid and thorough".

GTEch's fitness to remain part of Camelot is in doubt after Richard Branson's High Court libel win over Guy Snowden, the former GTEch chairman. The trial raised serious questions about the effectiveness of Peter Davis, the former regulator, in his vetting of GTEch, which faces damaging accusations over its business practices. GTEch has never been found guilty of wrongdoing.

Yesterday's meeting was crucial in helping Mr Stoker to reach a decision on whether GTEch should be allowed to continue to operate in the UK. Removing GTEch is likely to cause widespread disruption to ticket sales — damaging revenues to good causes — and the decision to force GTEch's removal could not be taken lightly.

Reaching a decision is likely to take some weeks. It appears likely that Mr Stoker will decide that GTEch should remain part of Camelot but he could demand concessions aimed at distancing GTEch from its fellow Camelot members. GTEch has 22.5 per cent of Camelot. The other consortium members may be obliged to buy out GTEch, retaining it as an arms-length supplier of services. Camelot had no comment yesterday.

## P&O steams ahead as it reaches targets early

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

SHARES in P&O surged ahead as the company's cruise, ferry and property divisions all delivered big gains in the second half of the year.

P&O's deferred stock gained 4 per cent to 889p as the transport and real estate group reported a £100 million rise in pre-tax profits to £433 million in 1997.

Lord Sterling of Plainston, P&O's chairman, said the company had achieved most of the targets in its medium-term strategy ahead of schedule and he reported strong bookings for cruises in Europe and North America with the new 109,000-tonne *Grand Princess* booked solid for the entire summer season.

P&O is maintaining the dividend at 30.5p a share with a final 17p despite a rise in earnings from 40.1p to 53.1p a share although the company will have further scope to raise dividends in future.

Lord Sterling indicated that the company's tax charge should fall after the abolition of advance corporation tax.

The chairman said that the P&O and Princess cruise brands were benefiting from the growing scale of the operation with £1.5 billion of ships on order.

The ship-building programme will lead to six new

vessels in the fleet by 2001, leading to a 12 per cent per annum capacity increase for each of the next five years.

Profits at P&O cruises rose 11 per cent to £175 million last year but the strongest gain came from P&O Ferries where profits advanced by almost 40 per cent to £68 million with a 28 per cent rise in the important second half of the year.

The company benefited from the aftermath of the Eurotunnel fire in November 1996 and the merger of its short sea crossing routes with Stena.

Lord Sterling said that P&O and its partner, Nedlloyd, had achieved the planned £200 million (£120 million) in cost-savings from their container shipping joint venture by the end of December. Profits from P&O Nedlloyd were down from £18 million to £8 million in the full year but showed a strong recovery from a first-half loss of £6 million to a second half profit of £15 million.

Property sales boosted P&O's results with an £80 million gain, the bulk of which came from the sale of the Manchester Arndale Centre for £135 million. P&O said it would take advantage of strong markets to make further sales.



Lord Sterling reported strong demand for cruises

### DTI drive on exports comes under fire

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

THE Department of Trade and Industry has been criticised by businesses concerned that it is launching a big revamp of its trade policy while the strong pound is crippling export performance.

The DTI is expected to announce today a package of measures, aimed especially at smaller companies, including a big new trade fair drive and an Internet service designed to provide export leads.

However, Stephen Alambritis, of the Federation of Small Businesses, described the measures — dubbed the "E99 package" — as coming at the "worst possible moment" and offering only a "fool's paradise" for small companies while the pound stays so strong.

The Government is not offering any new help for exporters to deal with the problems of the pound, which has risen by more than 20 per cent in the past 18 months. Lord Clinton-Davis, Minister for Trade, said that the Government was "acutely aware" of the problems presented to exporters by the strong pound, but that it would be counter-productive to "manipulate with the level of the currency".

Mr Alambritis said that although the package was a welcome start, small businesses wanted to see more "root-and-branch reform" of the export services provided by the DTI, including increased investment in the Export Credit Guarantee Department and embassy country desks.

Mr Alambritis said: "The biggest problem that small businesses face is not getting paid abroad. There are too many champagne-swilling diplomats on country desks who do not understand the difficulties exporters face." The DTI will back the new package with around £5 million in extra spending this year. It is planning to stage about 800 trade fairs and outward missions over the next year, compared with fewer than 600 in the past 12 months.

### Glynwed to consider metals divisions sale

GYNWED INTERNATIONAL could raise between £300 million and £400 million from the sale of its two metals divisions as the company continues a wide-ranging restructuring, Tony Wilson, chief executive, said yesterday a disposal was likely in the longer term.

Yesterday Glynwed, which sold 12 non-core businesses last year, reported a rise in 1997 profits to £89.4 million from £86.3 million before tax and exceptional items. Adjusted earnings rose to 24.8p a share from 22.8p. The total dividend rose to 13.2p a share from 12.75p with a final 8.8p. The shares rose 33p to 294½p yesterday. Overall profits from the two metals divisions were down 5 per cent against a background of weak metal prices and lower exports and a strong pound. The processing division made profits of £30.5 million on turnover of £209.2 million, down from £33.1 million and £322.1 million respectively in 1996. The distribution division, earned profits of £11 million, against £10.8 million.

### Court rejects BCCI claim

THE liquidators of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) suffered a setback yesterday when the High Court threw out an \$800 million (£470 million) damages claim against Ernst & Whinney (now Ernst & Young), the former BCCI auditor. The claim relates to BCCI Holdings (Luxembourg) — one of three BCCI holding companies. Some \$2.6 billion in claims remains outstanding against Ernst & Whinney. BCCI was shut down by the Bank of England in 1991 with losses of \$10 billion.

### Defence costs Marley

MARLEY has spent £900,000 agreeing an out-of-court settlement with a small US rival that claimed that the building materials group had infringed one of its patents. David Trapnell, chief executive, said the company believed it was in the right, but has sought a private agreement to prevent running up more lawyers' bills. Marley profits were up 12 per cent to £48.4 million for 1997. Headline earnings rose 14 per cent to 10.7p. The shares added 3½p to 112½p and the dividend is 5.4p (5p), with a final 3.3p.

### Taylor quits WH Smith

MARTIN TAYLOR, chief executive of Barclays, has resigned from the board of WH Smith, the high street retailer. Mr Taylor has been a non-executive director of Smiths since 1993. A spokeswoman for the retailer said she believed he had resigned because of the pressure of work. Jeremy Hardie, chairman of WH Smith, said: "Martin has made a significant contribution to WH Smith during his five years on the board. He leaves with our thanks and best wishes."

### Hunting improves

THE fall in oil prices could not stop a surge in profit at Hunting, the oil services and defence group, last year. Operating profit before exceptional charges rose from £44.4 million in 1996 to £52.3 million. Pre-tax profit was £38.8 million, up from £6.8 million in 1996, when Hunting had to absorb £40.5 million exceptional charges. Turnover rose 2.7 per cent to £1.3 billion. Earnings per share were 13.7p (15.4p loss). A final dividend of 3.25p will be paid on July 1, giving a 9.25p (6p) total for the year.

### Downturn for VCI

PRE-TAX profits at VCI, the multi-media publishing group, fell to £6.2 million in 1997 from £9.1 million. Earnings were 5.3p a share, down from 19.5p. There is a final dividend of 5.5p a share, lifting the total to 7.9p a share from 7.8p. The company issued a profits warning in December blaming a downturn in the UK video business for poor performance. The shares rose 7p to 113½p yesterday, against a 12-month high of 265½p.

### Norweb-Telecom venture

NORWEB COMMUNICATIONS and Northern Telecom are expected to announce today the creation of a joint venture company to offer fast, sophisticated Internet services using conventional electricity wires into the home. The two groups said in October that they had solved the technical problems involved in sending digital data down power wires without interference. Today the companies will formally announce the go-ahead for a 2,000-home commercial trial in the North West of England.

### Shield gets test boost

SHIELD DIAGNOSTICS, the Dundee company that has developed a heart disease test, announced encouraging results from the pivotal Northwick Park hospital study. Dr George Miller of the MRC Epidemiology Unit at St Bartholomew's hospital, told an Edinburgh meeting that the final figures confirmed the relationship between Activated Factor XII, the blood clotting agent measured by Shield's test, and the risk of heart disease. Shield closed 25p higher at 645p.

### KS Biomedix placing

KIM TAN, founder and managing director of KS Biomedix, is selling £2 million of shares in a placing and open offer that will raise £6.1 million for the AIM-listed drug development company. Shares in KS Biomedix have risen from 106p in January to 279p yesterday, encouraged by promising initial results from phase II trials of a rheumatoid arthritis drug. Dr Tan said that 13 institutions had agreed to take shares at 250p in the placing, which was 40 to 50 per cent oversubscribed.

### EFM funds plummet

EDINBURGH FUND MANAGERS said the value of Asian funds under management fell from £917 million to £431 million in the 12 months to January 31, a reflection of the economic crisis gripping the region. EFM's pre-tax profits, however, rose from £12.5 million to £16.9 million. Earnings before exceptional items fell from 40.2p a share to 35.6p. The total dividend is unchanged at 25p a share, with a final 17p.

## Taylor Woodrow keen to grow

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

TAYLOR WOODROW underlined the building industry's growing confidence in the housing market by saying it intends to seek acquisitions in the sector.

Colin Parsons, chairman and chief executive, said Taylor Woodrow, which earns half its profits from housing, would look at buying smaller companies worth between £30 million and £50 million in the UK and at expanding overseas.

Mr Parsons said: "We are

very bullish about housing. Profits from all our housing businesses rose 24 per cent overall. In the UK a lot of the heat that we saw last year has gone from the market and we are confident that we will see growth in the future."

The average price of Taylor Woodrow homes increased to £96,000 last year from £80,000 in the previous year. Much of the increase was driven by buyers choosing larger property. Mr Parsons said housing

looked buoyant across the company's markets.

But he gave warning about the likelihood of land price rises in the UK being fuelled by the Government's initiatives to build new homes on city "brownfield sites".

Development that has previously been developed. He said that while the policy was welcome in principle, housebuyers could not be forced to like city locations and reducing greenfield availability was likely to

pump up the price of countryside land.

The strong performance from Taylor's housing — which included a 44 per cent increase in its Canadian operations — helped to drive up overall profits by 23 per cent to £82.1 million.

A final dividend of 32.5p a share lifts the total to 4.5p (3.75p). The final payment will be made on July 1 as a foreign income dividend. Earnings per share were 14.2p (12p).

## Davies says rates may need to rise

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

GAVYN DAVIES, chief economist of Goldman Sachs, yesterday gave warning that interest rates could still need to rise because of the danger that the economy is continuing to grow above trend prompting "much more inflation" than is currently apparent.

Mr Davies, an informal adviser to the Chancellor, told the Commons Treasury Select Committee that previous governments and the Bank of England had left a "significant risk" to the economy because they had been too easy on monetary policy.

Mr Davies said that Kenneth Clarke, the previous Chancellor, and Gordon Brown, before he handed control of interest rates to the Bank's Monet-

ary Policy Committee, should have raised interest rates further. The Bank's failure to take more action than the four quarter-point rises it has made since gaining independence left the economy in a dangerous position, he said.

However, Mr Davies defended the Chancellor's recent Budget, saying that it contained the most severe fiscal tightening in the country since 1981 and that it "would have been unreasonable to expect more than that". He calculated that the 3 percentage points of gross domestic product by which Mr Brown had cut the public deficit, half was from improved government receipts and half from a clamp-down on public spending.

### Civil aviation boom lifts Meggitt's results

MEGGITT shares continued their recent surge yesterday as the aerospace and electronics group revealed a 30 per cent rise in 1997 pre-tax profits to £31.5 million on the back of the civil aircraft boom (Adam Jones writes). The shares rose 6p to 210½p, having traded at 160p just a month ago. Operating profits in the aerospace division increased 31 per cent to £19.2 million. Electronics profits

surged 29 per cent, buoyed by rising demand for its "smart" pacemaker.

Mike Stacey, chief executive, revealed the group had up to £70 million available for acquisitions and added that the group's market share gains meant its prospects were "excellent". Earnings per share were 9.4p (7.3p). A final dividend of 7.05p makes a total of 10.35p (9.175p) for the year.

## Post Office delivers freeze on cost of sending a letter

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE COST of posting a letter will remain the same until April next year after the Post Office yesterday announced the biggest price freeze in 40 years.

Postage rates were last increased in 1996, when 1p was added to both first and second-class stamps, making them 26p and 20p respectively. The freeze will mean that postage costs will not have increased for 33 months.

Neville Bain, the new chairman of the Post Office, said prices could be kept down because the organisation was

now more efficient. He said the amount of business done by Royal Mail — now running at 72 million items a day — was growing and the Post Office was on target to meet this year's Government demands for cash.

But Dr Bain, who started his job only last week, gave warning that the Post Office faced a critical time against international competitors and needed the Government to finish a long-running review into giving the organisation more commercial freedom quickly. He said: "If we are to

maintain our position as market leader we need the freedom to behave commercially — to raise capital to invest even more, develop new services and move into new markets." It wants action from the Government by the summer.

The Post Office is standardising the cost of sending letters to Europe. Airmail costs to countries in the European-Union are to rise next month — from 26p to 30p — while the price of postage to non-EU destinations will be cut from 31p to 30p.

## ROBECO GROUP

<p><b>ROBECO N.V.</b> (investment company with a variable capital) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS to be held on Thursday, 23rd April, 1998, at Concert and Congress building "de Doelen", entrance Schouwburgplein 50, Rotterdam, at 09.30 hours.</p> <p>AGENDA 1. Opening 2. To receive and adopt the Report of the Management Board for the financial year 1997 3. To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the financial year 1997 4. To determine the appropriation of the profit 5. To discharge the Management Board and the Supervisory Board 6. To report on the influence of capital providers 7. To receive and adopt a proposal to alter the Articles of Association 8. To compose the Supervisory Board 9. To fix the number of the Managing Directors to compose the Management Board 10. Any other business</p>	<p><b>ROLINCO N.V.</b> (investment company with a variable capital) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS to be held on Thursday, 23rd April, 1998, at Concert and Congress building "de Doelen", entrance Schouwburgplein 50, Rotterdam, at 11.45 hours.</p> <p>AGENDA 1. Opening 2. To receive and adopt the Report of the Management Board for the financial year 1997 3. To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the financial year 1997 4. To determine the appropriation of the profit 5. To discharge the Management Board and the Supervisory Board 6. To report on the influence of capital providers 7. To receive and adopt a proposal to alter the Articles of Association 8. To compose the Supervisory Board 9. To fix the number of the Managing Directors to compose the Management Board 10. Any other business</p>	<p><b>RORENTO N.V.</b> (registered in Philippines, St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles) INFORMATIVE MEETING FOR SHAREHOLDERS to be held on Monday, 27th April, 1998, at the offices of Robeco Antillen N.V., Kaya Wilson Papa Goder 24, Willemstad, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, at 10.30 hours.</p> <p>AGENDA 1. Opening 2. To receive and adopt the Report of the Management Board for the financial year 1997 3. To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the financial year 1997 4. To determine the appropriation of the profit 5. To discharge the Management Board and the Supervisory Board 6. To report on the influence of capital providers 7. To receive and adopt a proposal to alter the Articles of Association 8. To discuss the composition of the Supervisory Board 9. Any other business</p>	<p><b>RORENTO N.V.</b> (registered in Philippines, St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS to be held on Monday, 27th April, 1998, at the offices of Robeco Antillen N.V., Kaya Wilson Papa Goder 24, Willemstad, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, at 10.30 hours.</p> <p>AGENDA 1. Opening 2. To receive and adopt the Report of the Management Board for the financial year 1997 3. To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the financial year 1997 4. To determine the appropriation of the profit 5. To discharge the Management Board and the Supervisory Board 6. To report on the influence of capital providers 7. To receive and adopt a proposal to alter the Articles of Association 8. To compose the Supervisory Board 9. Any other business</p>
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Copies of the full agenda and of the Annual Report for 1997 can be obtained from National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR or Robeco U.K. Limited, 4 Carlos Place, Mayfair, London W1Y 5AE. Telephone: 0171-499 3507.

Holders of Bearer Share Certificates desirous of attending or being represented at the Meeting, should lodge their Certificates by hand (postal deliveries will not be accepted for voting purposes) with the National Westminster Bank PLC, at the address shown above (between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) in exchange for a receipt, not later than Thursday, 16th April, 1998.

Beneficial owners whose Bearer Share Certificates are presently deposited with a Bank must obtain a Certificate of Deposit signed by the Bank as evidence that such Bank is holding the Share Certificates. The Certificate of Deposit must be lodged against receipt, by that Bank, with the National Westminster Bank PLC, in accordance with the requirements stated above.

The receipt for Bearer Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit will constitute evidence of a shareholder's entitlement to attend and vote at the Meeting and should be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall. If a holder desires to appoint a proxy, who need not be a member of the Company, to attend and vote in his stead, a form of proxy may be obtained from the National Westminster Bank PLC as above and this form of proxy must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt for the Bearer Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Beneficial owners of Sub-share Certificates registered in the name of National Provincial Bank (Nominus) Limited desirous of attending or being represented at the Meeting must obtain a receipt or Certificate of Deposit in the same way as holders of Bearer Share Certificates. If they desire to attend the Meeting in person or to be represented they must obtain a form of proxy signed by National Provincial Bank (Nominus) Limited, which form must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt for the Sub-share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Beneficial owners of Sub-share Certificates registered in any name other than that of National Provincial Bank (Nominus) Limited, holders of Registered Full Shares and Shareholders who maintain a Shareholder's Account with the Company wishing to attend and vote at the Meeting or to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in their stead, must signify their intention in writing to the Secretary, Rorenco N.V. c/o Avireno B.V., Coolingsiel 126, NL-3211 AG Rotterdam, Netherlands to arrive not later than the date indicated above.

Although proxies may attend, votes will not be cast at the Informative Meeting.

Service contracts are not entered into with the Directors, who hold office in accordance with the Articles of Association.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGEMENT  
PHILIPSBURG  
Dated this 25th day of March 1998.

Bank	Share	Bank	Share
Australia \$	2.25	Bank of America	26.75
Austria Sch	22.83	Barclays	20.70
Belgium Fr	68.26	BNP	2.915
Canada \$	2.868	Commerzbank	0.895
Cyprus Cyp	0.938	Deutsche Bank	11.26
Denmark Kr	12.22	Edinburgh	1.26
Finland Mk	8.94	First Montagu	5.02
France Fr	10.72	France 2	5.94
Germany DM	3.22	Germany 2	2.26
Hong Kong \$	13.20	HSBC	1.26
India Ru	1.26	India 2	1.18
Indonesia Rp	6.27	Japan 2	5.25
Italy Lit	3191	Japan 2	2924
Japan Yen	23.00	Japan 2	0.828
Malta	0.828	Netherlands Gld	5.94
Netherlands Gld	5.94	Netherlands Gld	5.94
New Zealand \$	3.12	Norway Kr	12.26
Norway Kr	12.26	Portugal Esc	303.20
Portugal Esc	303.20	Spain Ptas	12.26
Spain Ptas	12.26	Sweden Kr	12.26
Sweden Kr	12.26	Switzerland Sfr	1.26
Switzerland Sfr	1.26	Turkey Lira	265.07
Turkey Lira	265.07	USA \$	1.781
USA \$	1.781		

Notes: For small denomination bank shares, please refer to the appropriate bank's prospectus. Please see also close of trading.

Overcome by falling X-ray prices





# Thorny problem for Mr Rose

COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Today Stuart Rose will go on the offensive. The newly installed chief executive of Argos needs to persuade shareholders that there is a wonderful future for an independent Argos under his leadership, without actually maligning the management that had led the company into the vulnerable state that caught the attention of Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale.

With Mike Smith, the former chief executive, now undergoing chemotherapy but remaining a director, Rose is treading a diplomatic minefield. The £500,000 he has negotiated to save his pride should the GUS bid succeed has already occasioned some doubts as to how vehemently he may feel inclined to fight for Argos independence.

But the indications are that, after six weeks of getting to know the business, Rose is prepared to forgo the speedy pay-off in return for a bright new future he sees with a repolished Argos. Less kind souls might also point out that the Rose CV could appear a little tarnished if the embarrassing public decision of WH Smith not to make him chief executive was so promptly followed by a vote of no-confidence from Argos shareholders.

Investors have already registered the view that GUS must pay more for Argos than the sighting shot of 570p. The premium that the acquisitive Lord Wolfson has been prepared to offer for his other current bid

target, Metromail, has encouraged the market to aim high: last night the shares closed at 606p. With no white knights having galloped into sight, and Kingfisher ungallantly making clear that it believes it can grow very nicely without taking out this particular rival, Lord Wolfson might find his shareholders wary of a hefty increase in the GUS offer.

Argos would be a useful complement to the GUS mail order business, moving it into catalogue shops at a time when agency mail order is in gradual decline. Littlewoods acknowledged the trend and, painfully and expensively, launched its own catalogue shops business, Index, almost a decade ago. So there is logic in the merger: the question is one of price. Argos looks tired and has had a couple of poor years. Today, Rose will be hard pressed to defend the company's Christmas trading, when poor merchandising allowed Kingfisher to romp ahead.

But Rose does not need to strive too hard to defend the figures, nor the dismal Argos record of diversification. Remember Chesterman, the lavishly launched furniture business that

proved to have less spring than a horsehair sofa? The life expectancy for the company's new chain of bargain basement stores seems little better. Not horrors that can be laid at the door of Mr Rose, fresh from his time with Burton. He has merely to persuade shareholders that Argos can be quickly souped up again. Those who are not convinced might do better to sell in the market than hope for an over-generous offer from GUS.

## It's a funny old game

Since John Hall is no doubt ruling the day he passed control of Newcastle United to his son, Negotium does not play well on the stock market and the demise of Douglas was on the cards long before he and Freddy Shepherd suffered a case of loose tongues among the loose women of the Costa del Sol.

Though the knee jerk reaction of many investors to this scandal will be to avoid football club shares, there are many willing to argue against this. They say that the strong non-executive directors — Sir Terrence Harrison, John Mayo and Denis Cassidy — did what strong non-executives should do, and righted the wrong. The trouble is that independent non-executives are in short supply at many quoted football clubs — look at the boards of Chelsea Village, where Ken Bates rules by virtue of mysterious offshore backers, and Loftus Road, which owns QPR. And at Newcastle United the Hall family's Cameron Hall still owns a majority of the shares, an issue which the board is now trying to address.

Assuming Newcastle United can come out of this mess with a sensible board and shareholding structure, it will not be the end of investors' misery. The club's shares have been extremely vol-

atile over the last few days and this situation could get worse, depending on how Newcastle perform on the pitch over the next few weeks.

The club sits uncomfortably four points above the relegation zone from the Premier League. It is also in the semi-finals of the FA Cup. Relegation could cost Newcastle over £5 million a year in lost TV revenues alone. Reaching the final of the FA Cup virtually guarantees the club a place in the European Cup Winners Cup next year, which would be worth another £3 million of income. No amount of planning, budgeting and sensible discussion by the board can guarantee the team plays well. The difference between good and appalling profits next year is beyond the board's control.

This is the conundrum that faces quoted football clubs. They are not like normal companies. If the star striker breaks his leg, or a key defender is sent off, or a

linesman misses a clear offside decision, this can add or subtract millions from the value of the company. Only a handful of clubs have the strength of brand and income to rise above such unpredictable, and often unavoidable, incidents. Many in the City thought Newcastle United was just such a club. They were wrong.

## Waiting game at Midlands

Members of the Birmingham Midlands building society must be beginning to feel like non-people. The prospect of a juicy windfall has been dangled before them but they are prevented from giving the branch even the gentlest shake to hasten its arrival. They can only watch and wait, despite the risk that the seasons may change before they can harvest the fruit, which may even go rotten on the bough.

Such is the ludicrous effect of the building societies legislation. Royal Bank of Scotland is refusing to enter an auction with Halifax for the privilege of taking over Birmingham Midlands but, understandably, it is not

prepared to stand aside and leave the way clear for its more generous rival. The Birmingham Midlands management, who hardly went into overdrive to power through the RBS offer, is free to ignore the views of its members on their future.

A public company would have had to speed up the takeover process, and had Birmingham Midlands been governed by the same rules, the RBS offer would have been put to shareholders and, presumably, accepted with some alacrity before bearing Mike Blackburn, of the Halifax, had come around the corner.

Those savers who would have welcomed the RBS offer now face the risk of the bank blocking the way of the higher bidder until at least the end of the year. By then, the values attributed to financial institutions may have fallen, perhaps substantially. A fine example of mutuality at work.

## Room to manoeuvre

Newly installed as chairman of the Arts Council, Gerry Robinson will appreciate the theatricalities of the game of brinkmanship now being played out over the Savoy. But since Granada wants out and the Womner family has at last conceded the principle of selling their shares, it would be a poor banker who could not negotiate a deal. The promise of a permanent welcome at Claridges for Lady W could be the clincher.

# Nycomed hit by falling X-ray prices

By PAUL DURMAN

FALLING prices in Nycomed Amersham's X-ray imaging business marred the first results to include a contribution from Nycomed, the Norwegian company that merged last year with Amersham International.

Shares in the healthcare group, a FTSE 100 stock, fell 59p to £22.71 as it revealed that US sales of X-ray imaging agents had fallen by 15 per cent to £152 million. Bill Castell, chief executive, said he expected a similar level of decline in the US this year.

X-ray imaging sales in the rest of the world grew by 6 per cent to £174 million. Some analysts fear these sales could hit similar price competition, as could the group's smaller business supplying the agents used with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners.

Nycomed Amersham said it made underlying pre-tax profits of £78.9 million from sales of £568.1 million in the last nine months of 1997. On top of the Nycomed merger in October, comparisons with Amersham's prior year are obscured by its August merger with Pharmacia Biotech of Sweden, the recent sale of the loss-making Indus-

trial Quality & Safety Assurance (QSA) business, and a change of year end.

The expected £114.5 million of integration costs and the £22.3 million loss on the QSA disposal left the group with a pre-tax loss of £61.9 million for the nine-month period.

Assuming the group had been in existence for the whole of last year, and ignoring currency fluctuations, Nycomed Amersham suggested its pre-tax profits had risen by 9.1 per cent to £198.6 million on sales that were 7 per cent higher at £1.38 billion.

On a similar pro-forma basis, Nycomed Amersham said the strong pound would have cut pre-tax profits by £35 million. It suggested current exchange rates will cost it up to £16 million this year.

Mr Castell said the integration and restructuring, which will cost 650 jobs, remained on track to produce £70 million of annual savings by 2000.

Nycomed Amersham has declared a final dividend of 17.5p a share. It did not pay an interim. Last year, Amersham paid a total of 22p a share.

Tempus, page 26

# Takeover talk lifts Brunner

By CARL MORTENSHED

SHARES in Brunner Mond, the soda ash manufacturer, rose 15 per cent to 176p after the chemicals group revealed that it was in talks that might lead to a takeover.

Suspicion is focused on FMC, an American engineering and chemicals conglomerate. Brunner Mond would not reveal the identity of the potential bidder but said: "The offer price proposed is at a small premium to the flotation price of 175p."

A takeover would end Brunner Mond's brief and inglorious career on the stock market. The company was one of the four founding partners of Imperial Chemical Industries but was spun off in November 1996.

FMC's interest in Brunner is thought to be its customer base — the UK company is a major supplier of soda ash, a raw material in glass manufacture, to Pilkington and St Gobain. Brunner manufactures synthetic soda ash in Cheshire but the US company has large reserves and has been trying to penetrate the UK market.

Analysts were sceptical that a second bidder would emerge with a higher offer. Michael Eastwood, of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said: "Brunner Mond has no pricing power. Even after the share price rise, it has underperformed the market by 37 per cent."



In the van: Malcolm Walker, chairman and chief executive of food retailer Iceland

# Iceland delivers new sales

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

EVIDENCE that Iceland's home delivery service is boosting sales took the sting out of a drop in the food retailer's profits and sent its shares to a three-year high yesterday.

Pre-tax profit before exceptional items in the year to January 3 fell from £56.2 million to £50.2 million. Taking exceptional items into account, pre-tax profit was down to £43.5 million.

Like-for-like sales in the first 11 weeks of the year were up 16 per cent, compared to a 7.4 per cent rise in the second half of last year. Shares closed 18p higher at 196.5p.

Malcolm Walker, chairman and chief executive, admitted

the high level of growth was not sustainable but said that home delivery, which is now available in all its stores, had boosted customers' average spend from £6.90 to about £8. The company plans to use its new delivery infrastructure to develop a home shopping service.

Fully diluted earnings per share were 10.98p, down from 12.23p. The final dividend has been maintained at 3.6p, giving an unchanged total for the year of 5.4p.

# Flextech and BBC venture loses £19m

By CHRIS AYRES

UKTV, the joint venture between Flextech and the BBC, has lost a total of £19.2 million since it was created in March last year.

The losses are to be funded entirely by Flextech and overshadowed the news that Flextech had finally recorded operating profits for the first time since it was transformed from an oil to a media company in the early 1990s.

Yesterday the company also said it would set up a new interactive shopping channel, to be called TV Travel Shop, and had begun interactive broadcasting trials with BT.

Shares in Flextech rose 29p to 53p, bringing its market value to nearly £300 million.

Although Adam Singer, Flextech's chairman, boasted that the group's net operating profits were £10 million for the year to December 31, pre-tax losses after exceptional items were £6.2 million, compared with £14.2 million for the previous year.

The company revealed that it had spent £7.4 million relaunching and rebranding its channels — which include Bravo, UK Gold and Discovery — while turnover increased by 54 per cent from £65.2 million to £100.6 million. Losses per share fell from 12.76p to 3.49p.

Mr Singer said Flextech was happy with the performance of Scottish Media Group, in which it has a 19 per cent stake, and that it was not yet interested in a sale. He also confirmed that the company was still in talks with BSkyB, the satellite operator, over a possible deal to provide channels for its digital service.

Tempus page 26

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مركز من الإصل

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Support for detection process boosts Shield

SHIELD DIAGNOSTICS has finally come up with the goods for City investors. After months of speculation, scientists have concluded that the group's Activated Factor 12 can detect heart disease early on from a simple blood test.



Thames Water shares went down better with investors as a large seller overhanging the market was cleared

Confirmation that the process does work has been eagerly awaited in the Square Mile and the shares responded with a jump of 25p to 645p, after briefly touching 662 1/2p. That compares with the peak of 900p the price reached in 1996 before doubts about the process and the ability of the group to find a working partner took their toll.

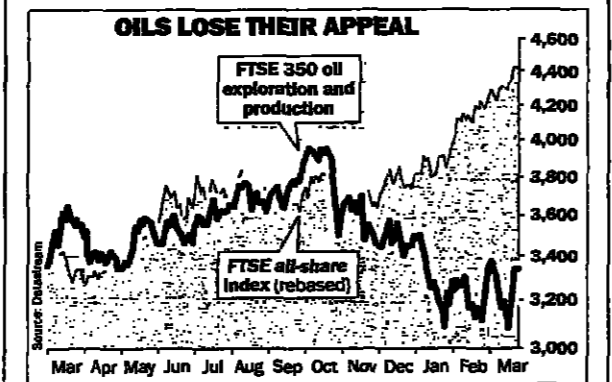
on a high note. There is talk he may arrange an agreed bid for the company. Thames Water bounced 44p to 960p as 586,000 shares changed hands. A large seller who had been overhanging the market has been cleared.

Share prices generally closed at their best of the day with the FTSE 100 index finishing 36.7 up at 5,983.7 as total turnover exceeded more than a billion shares. The resilience of the market surprised brokers who had been expecting a relapse in the wake of the overnight setback on Wall Street.

at Allied Textiles left the shares nursing a loss of 25p at 156 1/2p. But the company was quick to reassure shareholders that it was evaluating various options to enhance value. News of a bid approach lifted Brauer Mond, the former ICI soda ash unit, 23p to 176 1/2p.

There was a lukewarm response to the agreed bid for Spaxder with the price firming just 2 1/2p to 312 1/2p. Gerber Scientific of the US is offering 32 1/2p a share for the computer-operated signs group, valuing it at £109.2 million. The shares have come up from a low of 22p since the start of the year.

There was a sign of relief on the Tyne as Freddy Shepherd, chairman, and Douglas Hall, vice-chairman, resigned as directors of Newcastle United after a week of intense pressure. The pair were accused of insulting northern women and mocking their own fans over the price paid for replica team shirts.



THE revival in the fortunes of the oil industry proved short-lived as the price of Brent crude for May delivery boiled over to end nearly half a cent lower at 14.57.

The oil companies responded accordingly with BP losing 20 1/2p at 907p, Enterprise Oil 15 1/2p at 557 1/2p, Lasso 4 1/2p at 287p and British Borneo 9p to 359 1/2p.

This revived fears that the agreement thrashed out between Opec members and non-members over the weekend to cut production by up to 2 million barrels per day may not hold.

There was further volatility in shares of Viewnet. The price touched a new low of 4 1/2p before rallying to finish 2p cheaper at 17 1/2p. The price has fallen from 22p in the past year.

It was the first day of dealings in Safestore, which has been demerged from Safeland, the property developer. Shares in Safestore, which provides secure storage space, opened at an expected 52 1/2p.

NEW YORK: Shares were higher in early trading as inflation fears over a rise in oil prices eased. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 81.71 points to 8,897.96.

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major stock indices including New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and others with their respective values and changes.

RECENT

Table of recent market movements for various stocks like Advent 2 VCT, BGR, Bax B, Eurotunnel 01/03 WS, Guardian IT, Hartford Grp, etc.

WISHLIST

Table of stocks on a wishlist including Paragon n/p (180), Pex n/p (3), Westbury n/p (233), etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major stock price changes categorized into RISES and FALLS, listing companies like Ben Bailey, Plasman, Glynwed, etc.

CRUISE CONTROL

P&O deserves credit for a thundering recovery in profits. A large portion of the pre-tax gain must be attributed to the sale of Manchester's Middle Centre, a one-off filip that accounted for the bulk of the £80 million exceptional property gain.

Nycomed Amersham

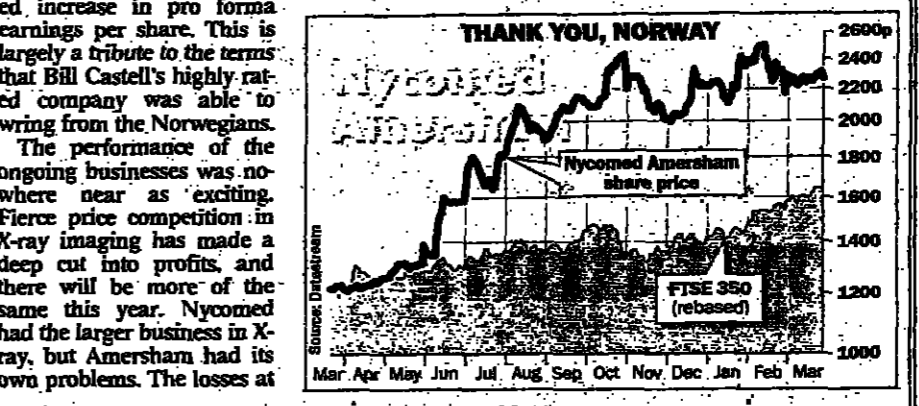
SINCE Amersham International announced its £2.1 billion merger with Nycomed of Norway last July, the group's shares have risen by more than 40 per cent - or almost exactly in line with yesterday's reported increase in pro forma earnings per share.

Iceland

WAIT around long enough, and most things come back into fashion. Just as shoes and platform-soled shoes swing in and out of favour, so Iceland has yo-yoed between being a stock market darling and written off as a redundant concept.

Flextech

Flextech's £800 million market value looks extraordinary alongside its distinguished financial performance. It's not even as though the product is particularly glamorous.



COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including COCOA, RUBBER, WHITE SUGAR, and MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION.

ICIS-LOR (LONDON & OIL)

Table of ICIS-LOR prices for CRUDE OILS, GAS OIL, BRENT, and RUBBER.

FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of financial futures including Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, Italian Govt Bond, Japanese Govt Bond, etc.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposit rates for various currencies and terms.

LIFTS OF OPTIONS

Table of lift prices for various options contracts.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table of London metal exchange prices for various metals like Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.

STERLING FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling forward rates for various currencies and terms.

GOULD/PEPPER'S (BANK & CO)

Table of bank rates and other financial data from Gould/Pepper's.

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# Give the New Deal a chance to work

The New Deal goes national in less than two weeks: the hopes of this Government riding on its success. If anything is the leitmotif of new Labour, it is its programme to propel the young, the long-term unemployed and the socially excluded back into work and self-respect.

Opposition critics are already carping despite the fact that two of the main features of Labour's approach were pioneered by the Conservatives: an element of compulsion that outlaws benefits as a way of life for young people and the mobilising of the private sector to train, give work experience and, it is hoped, permanent jobs.

At a Politica conference yesterday, David Willetts, MP, attempted to debunk the whole notion that equipping people with skills would help them to re-enter the labour market. He said that "all you need to tackle is a set of psychological barriers to work" and that, in this regard, Job Clubs had been an enormous success. More than this,

he suggested that the whole effort to create more jobs was unnecessary because Britain had a relatively high level of employment.

His skills argument goes against all the evidence: 60 per cent of companies surveyed by the Institute of Directors said that their main fear of taking on New Dealers was that they lacked the appropriate skills. On Job Clubs, you don't have to have seen *The Fall Monty* to know that plunking men in a room and leaving them to fill out application forms like so many detention lines after school is not exactly motivational. On whether it is worth creating more jobs, it should be noted that one in five British households have no one bringing in a wage. That is no recipe for social cohesion.

It is disheartening to hear criticism of the New Deal before it is

even up and running, not least because enthusiasm is the glue giving the evolving patchwork of national and local, public and private partnerships some coherence and vigour.

Keith Faulkner, of Manpower, which recently won the New Deal contract for Bridgend and the Glamorgan Valleys, said that an element of haphazardness as local New Deal plans are drawn up is a price worth paying for speed. "By moving quickly, the Government is capitalising on the goodwill that exists. If the Government had moved more slowly, some of the design issues would have been solved but it would have missed the wave of enthusiasm which came with the election," he said.

There are inevitably criticisms of the programme. One of the key debates is about flexibility. Sir Hugh



JANET BUSH

Sykes, chairman of the Sheffield Development Corporation for nine years and author of a new Politica pamphlet, argues against a simplistic national template for the New Deal. Why should a £60 in-work subsidy be standard? Why not different subsidies according to different regional needs? Why is the New Deal for a standard six months? Why not nine in some

places? Why should money be targeted at a specific group such as the under-25s? Why not channel money to different groups in different areas, according to local need? This is good sense, but a balance has to be struck. Without a clear national framework, at least at the start, Labour's New Deal would be just as chaotic as the mish-mash of training and counselling so derided in the Tory years. And Sir Hugh's worries probably underestimate the degree of local flexibility — and imagination — already becoming evident.

Manpower is an example. It is offering to act as a quasi-agent for nervous small and medium-sized companies by employing New Dealers itself and placing them with local firms for work experience. The hope is that these companies will take people on

permanently, but by structuring things this way the ice is broken. In Swansea, one of the New Deal Pathfinder areas, the local Employment Service runs a clothing exchange, making interview suits available to the unemployed; a small but vital contribution to the Welfare to Work effort.

There are many other criticisms of the New Deal: the training and enterprise councils are dreadfully bureaucratic — and the average application form and instruction manual for bidders for New Deal training contracts is reported to be taller than the average unemployed youth. There are genuine concerns that the hardest cases of social exclusion are not being touched. There is a mounting campaign to re-target Government resources on the long-term rather than young — unemployed.

But there is much to commend, not least that the Government has a serious intent. Conservative efforts, from YTS to Job Clubs, were low quality, cheap options, primarily aimed at cutting embarrassing headline unemployment figures and saving the Exchequer money. Labour, which has articulated the link between employment and the state of society, has much deeper motives. It is not bothered about tinkering with unemployment totals. Indeed, it is about to switch to the Labour Force Survey measure that will, at a stroke, raise unemployment by 500,000. It made clear yesterday that the New Deal will not cut the jobs total, but raise the employment count.

Labour wants to save money too, but at least it is prepared to spend a great deal first. And how expensive is the programme really? It has been financed by the windfall levy, pretty painless for the privatised utilities and absolutely painless for the taxpayer: potentially an excellent investment.

# Suharto on brink as Indonesia lurches to financial disaster

David Watts analyses an economic crisis that has global implications



Protestors at a Jakarta university vent their anger at the shortages that have followed the collapse of the rupiah

The outlook for Indonesia is grim, with its economy at a virtual standstill and confidence in the rupiah dependent on the much-disputed International Monetary Fund bailout.

Imports, particularly of food and raw materials, are expensive and strategic stockpiles of rice stand at dangerously low levels after poor harvests and drought. Overall imports in February were of the order of \$100 million (about £60 million) compared with the monthly average of some \$1.2 billion.

The prospects for serious unrest will rise in July and August when the dry season returns and large numbers of people will face food shortages either through lack of supplies brought about by the drought induced by El Niño or the inability to buy what little will be on the market.

Several large foreign firms, including Price Waterhouse, have provided their staff with open tickets in case of need while others, such as Coca-Cola, are so concerned over the market downturn and security that they are not bringing expatriate staff in.

Other foreign firms are piling in to hunt for bargains, with the great majority of Indonesian companies now technically bankrupt and in search of partners.

Private business letters of credit are unobtainable, so dire is the state of the local banking system, with private debt running at \$74 billion and government reserves estimated at between \$9 billion and \$11 billion or the equivalent of about four months of imports. Inflation is rising fast and some predict it could reach 100 per cent by the end of the year, while unemployment could reach 40 million by the middle of the year.

The big earners, such as oil, natural gas, timber and plywood, remain self-financing or in the hands of multi-million-

aire businessmen in a position to finance themselves out of difficulty. Car sales are running at about one-third normal levels though ironically higher-end marques such as BMW, which are locally assembled, appear to be holding up reasonably well.

The effects on the regional economy are not yet fully apparent but already Singapore services are feeling the draught as is the republic's real estate market, which depends heavily on rich Indonesians buying some of the more up-market apartments. A Singapore property auction last week failed to produce a single sale in a market that has always been regarded as providing Indonesia's generals with a home for their pensions.

More important for regional stability perhaps is the threat of large-scale emigration from outlying areas of the country, which is already worrying the Governments of Singapore and Malaysia, not to mention the Australian Government,

with Darwin in striking distance across the Timor Sea.

In the short term, Japanese and German banks are ready to supply trade finance while Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, arrived at the weekend ready with the first tranche of bilateral assistance.

President Suharto is facing an economic outlook almost as devastating as when he took over from the leftist President Sukarno, whose dissolute lifestyle and erratic policies left the country with inflation rates of 1,000 per cent.

The President does not face that kind of apocalyptic outlook, yet, but the basis for the acceptance of his authoritarian rule over the last 32 years was that economic expectations were met with annual growth of up to 8 per cent.

The youth of Jakarta, if not the whole of the rest of the country, have grown up with MTV and McDonald's, the availability of which has come to define their expectations of

the Government. In the capital 19 McDonald's have closed but so far the students have taken the Government's advice and confined their protests to university campuses.

For the moment the army and leading opposition and Muslim figures are holding back and allowing the Government a further period to sort things out but the army leadership has let it be known privately that it believes President Suharto must be allowed to leave the scene in his own good time.

That is the way of Javanese rulers and Suharto is a Javanese par excellence and a determined army officer who has always put duty first. He made that clear in his acceptance speech when he emphasised that he would be making the same report back to the nation when he stands for his eighth term of office starting in 2003.

Enigmatically, the commander of strategic forces, General Prabowo, who also

happens to be the President's son-in-law, says privately the army will be "with the people". That cool observation illustrates the distance President Suharto's enormous power has allowed him to put between himself and the army. That power has prevented potential rivals from developing and though many blanch at even the possibility of President Suharto remaining in power five years from now, there is nobody with the necessary stature ready to take over the reins.

Pride in the staying power of the world's longest-serving leader is part of the hopeless misreading of the situation that has typified the IMF's handling of the Indonesian situation and much of recent activity in the rest of Asia. Perhaps there really was something in the plan for a fund to bail-out troubled Asian economies suggested by the Japanese Government last September. At least Tokyo would not have made some of

the egregious cultural errors that have dogged the IMF's efforts from the start.

From the start the IMF programme seemed geared to grabbing headlines rather than dealing logically with the structural problems of the economy. Thus the first family's Timor car programme was tackled early on. The Timor is imported fully built up from Kia Motors of South Korea and escapes both the luxury import tax and the luxury sales tax while being given all sorts of privileges in-country such as free delivery along the toll motorways around the capital.

These are issues that the IMF needed to deal with but taking on entrenched, public privilege straight away was hardly likely to earn the Suharto family's co-operation in other fields. Nor was it going to produce results even in the medium term.

The result was agreement to dismantle the Timor's privileges, which was followed equally quickly by an announcement from the government that the existing stock of 15,000 Timors could be sold under the previous arrangements.

The same approach typified attempts to bring some logic to the banking sector. A total of 16 banks were targeted, again largely with first family connections. In reality, Indonesia has more than 200 banks of which perhaps 30 deserve to remain in business. A lower-key approach might have been more effective though that is not to say that President Suharto has not sought to use every trick in the book to dodge the day of reckoning.

The one small trace of hope in an otherwise bleak landscape is the President's apparently genuine contribution in his acceptance speech that mistakes had been made and that he accepted criticism in the hopes of getting things right in the future. And surely no national leader would attempt to face down the world financial community unless he had something in reserve.

Rumour has it that President Suharto is ready to bring home some of the billions of family dollars from abroad while the Sultan of Brunei is ready to bail the rupiah out of its problems. If not, the impact of Indonesia's crisis is going to be felt around the world for many years.

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### BBC producers retain total editorial control of National Lottery shows

From the Controller Editorial Policy, BBC

Dear Sir, As the chairman of Littlewoods, James Ross (business letters, March 20) naturally takes a close interest in the National Lottery and the BBC's coverage of it.

The BBC's position on this is quite clear. We are broadcasting programmes totally under our editorial control, around National Lottery events which have been established by an Act of Parliament.

The BBC's producers' guidelines make it clear that the BBC will not countenance any programming which promotes the sale of any product. The section of the guidelines on the National Lottery explicitly

states: "BBC trails and BBC programmes should not actively promote the purchase of Lottery tickets or Lottery scratchcards, or give details as to where they may be purchased. However, it is acceptable for the mechanism of Lottery draws or games to be explained on air."

BBC programmes have adhered closely to these guidelines and will continue to do so.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP HARDING,  
Controller Editorial Policy,  
BBC,  
Broadcasting House,  
Portland Place, London  
W1A 1AA,  
March 20

### Companies can cope successfully with the euro

From Frank Tomlin

Sir, Laura Sandys's article (March 24) makes more sense than John Redwood's (March 23) regarding companies preparing for the Euro.

Mr Redwood appears unaware that it is standard practice to design computer systems to facilitate ease of maintenance. Data that is liable to change over time is not hard-coded into programs.

Companies whose business is international in scope will already have designed their computer systems on the as-

sumption that from time to time, there will emerge new countries, new currencies, new denominations of existing currencies.

Companies that have coped perfectly well when these situations arose in the past, and have prospered from new business opportunities in new markets, can be relied on to do so again without lectures from politicians.

Yours faithfully,  
Frank Tomlin,  
2 Ruskin Dene,  
Billericay,  
Essex,  
CM12 0AN.

### Chancellor's timing could not be worse

From Mr Peter Taylor

Sir, With reference to bed and breakfast share deals as reported in *The Times* (March 18), I am appalled at the Chancellor's decision to curtail this long-standing practice with immediate effect — principally because of the timing: just days before the end of the tax year.

It certainly smacks of

Labour's attitude towards the savers of Middle England and is downright unfair to those more trusting souls who have things to the last — amongst whom I did not number.

Yours etc,  
PETER TAYLOR,  
22 Redlands Way,  
Sutton Coldfield,  
West Midlands,  
B74 3ET.

## Star signings

THE poaching season is in full swing in the City, it seems, even if the football season is mercifully drawing to an end. HSBC has swooped on Lazards for two stars to head up its UK equity management division.

Lazards director Tim Russell, a Chelsea fanatic, they insist on telling me, will run HSBC Asset Management's £7 billion UK equity desk in June, while his colleague Wade Pollard joins him in a transfer in April. No word from either team on the transfer price, but I am told not to



Crying shame: Frank Dobson's new NHS 'baby' has upset PPP

look for much change from £300,000 a year. Dean Buckley, HSBC chief investment officer, says he's looking for a better performance than Chelsea. Unfortunately he insists on extending the footballing metaphor.

"The trouble with Chelsea is that they're too volatile — one season they're great, the next they're awful. I hope Tim's performance is going to be more consistent than Chelsea's. We're more of a Manchester United team." By now he has completely lost me. But he ploughs on. While football transfers take place all year around, the high season for City poachers is March and April, once the bonuses have safely been banked.

Buckley says that the appointments follow the retirement of John Knight, who has been with HSBC for more than ten years. He adds: "There is more poaching activity at this time of the year, but as a poacher, I'm not in the habit of hibernating."

FRANK DOBSON, our genial health secretary, has launched a new 24-hour helpline that is designed to avoid trips to the casualty ward. In future you will be able to set those broken legs by telephone, under the guidance of a helpful NHS orderly. Or something like that. Our Frank, whose enthusiastic if at times un-



guided contributions so enlivened various privatisations when he was in opposition, posed in front of a picture of a crying baby for the launch.

In doing so he sparked what the tabloid press calls a tug-of-love battle with PPP, the private healthcare group which claims the child to be its long-lost own. More specifically, the brat whose screaming picture launched its own helpline last year. How could they tell?

### Out of the soup

WILLIAM KENDALL, the man who built up the New Covent Garden Soup Company and persuaded us all to part with a couple of quid for a cup of soup, is off only three months after

the business was taken over by S Daniels for £23.5 million. Kendall has decided that big company life is not for him and he sensibly intends to spend more time in future on his East Anglia farm.

S Daniels is a food business being rapidly built up by Cyril Freedman, the former Apax venture capitalist who so discreetly stood down from New Covent Garden's board a few weeks before announcing the deal in December. Apax was one of New Covent Garden's early backers, and I cannot believe Freedman is too pleased, even if Kendall is going to hang around until his company can find a new managing director.

THE magazine Punch, prop. Mohamed Al Fayed, has published a devastating critique of the tax security arrangements at banks up and down the country. I scan the piece carefully for mention of one of the most serious breaches of financial security of recent years. But there is not a word about the alleged tampering with some safety deposit boxes by employees of Harrods, prop. Mohamed Al Fayed, and his subsequent arrest in connection with the allegations. It seems a curious omission, but I expect there is some good legal reason.

### Prior booking

BERTION'S HOTEL is the title of a 1983 novel by Jean Nicol, who was

press officer for the Savoy during the War and then went off to a cottage in Cornwall to grow daffodils. (Her husband, Derek Tangye, who died a while back, was a well-known writer). Her book is about a fictitious hotel, based pretty closely on Claridge's, and its purchase by an American buyer. It probably seemed unthinkable then, but times have changed, even at the Savoy.

And while we are on the subject, I see the new trustee of the Savoy Educational Trust can be expected to uphold the financial properties. A hotel and catering man, he is called Richard Turpin. Stand and deliver!

MARTIN WALLER



Is nothing sacred? Times have changed, even at the Savoy

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# Shares end on a high

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997/98	1997/98	1997/98	1997/98	1997/98	1997/98	1997/98	1997/98
High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	PE	Div
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>							
678	677	Alfred Dunham	57	+1	1.7	15.2	0.00
679	678	Budweiser	34	-1	-2.9	12.5	0.00
680	679	Carlsberg	31	-1	-3.2	12.5	0.00
681	680	Guinness	25	-1	-3.8	12.5	0.00
682	681	Heineken	22	-1	-4.5	12.5	0.00
683	682	Interbrew	18	-1	-5.6	12.5	0.00
684	683	Kingfisher	15	-1	-6.7	12.5	0.00
685	684	Miller	12	-1	-8.0	12.5	0.00
686	685	Orkla	9	-1	-10.0	12.5	0.00
687	686	Stout	7	-1	-12.5	12.5	0.00
688	687	Tate & Lyle	5	-1	-15.0	12.5	0.00
689	688	Wm Whitbread	4	-1	-17.6	12.5	0.00
690	689	Yallahs	3	-1	-21.4	12.5	0.00
691	690	Yallahs	2	-1	-26.3	12.5	0.00
692	691	Yallahs	1	-1	-32.0	12.5	0.00
693	692	Yallahs	0	-1	-37.5	12.5	0.00
694	693	Yallahs	0	-1	-42.9	12.5	0.00
695	694	Yallahs	0	-1	-48.3	12.5	0.00
696	695	Yallahs	0	-1	-53.8	12.5	0.00
697	696	Yallahs	0	-1	-59.3	12.5	0.00
698	697	Yallahs	0	-1	-64.8	12.5	0.00
699	698	Yallahs	0	-1	-70.3	12.5	0.00
700	699	Yallahs	0	-1	-75.8	12.5	0.00
701	700	Yallahs	0	-1	-81.3	12.5	0.00
702	701	Yallahs	0	-1	-86.8	12.5	0.00
703	702	Yallahs	0	-1	-92.3	12.5	0.00
704	703	Yallahs	0	-1	-97.8	12.5	0.00
705	704	Yallahs	0	-1	-103.3	12.5	0.00
706	705	Yallahs	0	-1	-108.8	12.5	0.00
707	706	Yallahs	0	-1	-114.3	12.5	0.00
708	707	Yallahs	0	-1	-119.8	12.5	0.00
709	708	Yallahs	0	-1	-125.3	12.5	0.00
710	709	Yallahs	0	-1	-130.8	12.5	0.00
711	710	Yallahs	0	-1	-136.3	12.5	0.00
712	711	Yallahs	0	-1	-141.8	12.5	0.00
713	712	Yallahs	0	-1	-147.3	12.5	0.00
714	713	Yallahs	0	-1	-152.8	12.5	0.00
715	714	Yallahs	0	-1	-158.3	12.5	0.00
716	715	Yallahs	0	-1	-163.8	12.5	0.00
717	716	Yallahs	0	-1	-169.3	12.5	0.00
718	717	Yallahs	0	-1	-174.8	12.5	0.00
719	718	Yallahs	0	-1	-180.3	12.5	0.00
720	719	Yallahs	0	-1	-185.8	12.5	0.00
721	720	Yallahs	0	-1	-191.3	12.5	0.00
722	721	Yallahs	0	-1	-196.8	12.5	0.00
723	722	Yallahs	0	-1	-202.3	12.5	0.00
724	723	Yallahs	0	-1	-207.8	12.5	0.00
725	724	Yallahs	0	-1	-213.3	12.5	0.00
726	725	Yallahs	0	-1	-218.8	12.5	0.00
727	726	Yallahs	0	-1	-224.3	12.5	0.00
728	727	Yallahs	0	-1	-229.8	12.5	0.00
729	728	Yallahs	0	-1	-235.3	12.5	0.00
730	729	Yallahs	0	-1	-240.8	12.5	0.00
731	730	Yallahs	0	-1	-246.3	12.5	0.00
732	731	Yallahs	0	-1	-251.8	12.5	0.00
733	732	Yallahs	0	-1	-257.3	12.5	0.00
734	733	Yallahs	0	-1	-262.8	12.5	0.00
735	734	Yallahs	0	-1	-268.3	12.5	0.00
736	735	Yallahs	0	-1	-273.8	12.5	0.00
737	736	Yallahs	0	-1	-279.3	12.5	0.00
738	737	Yallahs	0	-1	-284.8	12.5	0.00
739	738	Yallahs	0	-1	-290.3	12.5	0.00
740	739	Yallahs	0	-1	-295.8	12.5	0.00
741	740	Yallahs	0	-1	-301.3	12.5	0.00
742	741	Yallahs	0	-1	-306.8	12.5	0.00
743	742	Yallahs	0	-1	-312.3	12.5	0.00
744	743	Yallahs	0	-1	-317.8	12.5	0.00
745	744	Yallahs	0	-1	-323.3	12.5	0.00
746	745	Yallahs	0	-1	-328.8	12.5	0.00
747	746	Yallahs	0	-1	-334.3	12.5	0.00
748	747	Yallahs	0	-1	-339.8	12.5	0.00
749	748	Yallahs	0	-1	-345.3	12.5	0.00
750	749	Yallahs	0	-1	-350.8	12.5	0.00
751	750	Yallahs	0	-1	-356.3	12.5	0.00
752	751	Yallahs	0	-1	-361.8	12.5	0.00
753	752	Yallahs	0	-1	-367.3	12.5	0.00
754	753	Yallahs	0	-1	-372.8	12.5	0.00
755	754	Yallahs	0	-1	-378.3	12.5	0.00
756	755	Yallahs	0	-1	-383.8	12.5	0.00
757	756	Yallahs	0	-1	-389.3	12.5	0.00
758	757	Yallahs	0	-1	-394.8	12.5	0.00
759	758	Yallahs	0	-1	-400.3	12.5	0.00
760	759	Yallahs	0	-1	-405.8	12.5	0.00
761	760	Yallahs	0	-1	-411.3	12.5	0.00
762	761	Yallahs	0	-1	-416.8	12.5	0.00
763	762	Yallahs	0	-1	-422.3	12.5	0.00
764	763	Yallahs	0	-1	-427.8	12.5	0.00
765	764	Yallahs	0	-1	-433.3	12.5	0.00
766	765	Yallahs	0	-1	-438.8	12.5	0.00
767	766	Yallahs	0	-1	-444.3	12.5	0.00
768	767	Yallahs	0	-1	-449.8	12.5	0.00
769	768	Yallahs	0	-1	-455.3	12.5	0.00
770	769	Yallahs	0	-1	-460.8	12.5	0.00
771	770	Yallahs	0	-1	-466.3	12.5	0.00
772	771	Yallahs	0	-1	-471.8	12.5	0.00
773	772	Yallahs	0	-1	-477.3	12.5	0.00
774	773	Yallahs	0	-1	-482.8	12.5	0.00
775	774	Yallahs	0	-1	-488.3	12.5	0.00
776	775	Yallahs	0	-1	-493.8	12.5	0.00
777	776	Yallahs	0	-1	-499.3	12.5	0.00
778	777	Yallahs	0	-1	-504.8	12.5	0.00
779	778	Yallahs	0	-1	-510.3	12.5	0.00
780	779	Yallahs	0	-1	-515.8	12.5	0.00
781	780	Yallahs	0	-1	-521.3	12.5	0.00
782	781	Yallahs	0	-1	-526.8	12.5	0.00
783	782	Yallahs	0	-1	-532.3	12.5	0.00
784	783	Yallahs	0	-1	-537.8	12.5	0.00
785	784	Yallahs	0	-1	-543.3	12.5	0.00
786	785	Yallahs	0	-1	-548.8	12.5	0.00
787	786	Yallahs	0	-1	-554.3	12.5	0.00
788	787	Yallahs	0	-1	-559.8	12.5	0.00
789	788	Yallahs	0	-1	-565.3	12.5	0.00
790	789	Yallahs	0	-1	-570.8	12.5	0.00
791	790	Yallahs	0	-1	-576.3	12.5	0.00
792	791	Yallahs	0	-1	-581.8	12.5	0.00
793	792	Yallahs	0	-1	-587.3	12.5	0.00
794	793	Yallahs	0	-1	-592.8	12.5	0.00
795	794	Yallahs	0	-1	-598.3	12.5	0.00
796	795	Yallahs	0	-1	-603.8	12.5	0.00
797	796	Yallahs	0	-1	-609.3	12.5	0.00
798	797	Yallahs	0	-1	-614.8	12.5	0.00
799	798	Yallahs	0	-1	-620.3	12.5	0.00
800	799	Yallahs	0	-1	-625.8	12.5	0.00
801	800	Yallahs	0	-1	-631.3	12.5	0.00
802	801	Yallahs	0	-1	-636.8	12.5	0.00
803	802	Yallahs	0	-1	-642.3	12.5	0.00
804	803	Yallahs	0	-1	-647.8	12.5	0.00
805	804	Yallahs	0	-1	-653.3	12.5	0.00
806	805	Yallahs	0	-1	-658.8	12.5	0.00
807	806	Yallahs	0	-1	-664.3	12.5	0.00
808	807	Yallahs	0	-1	-669.8	12.5	0.00
809	808	Yallahs	0	-1	-675.3	12.5	0.00
810	809	Yallahs	0	-1	-680.8	12.5	0.00
811	810	Yallahs	0	-1	-686.3	12.5	0.00
812	811	Yallahs	0	-1	-691.8	12.5	0.00
813	812	Yallahs	0	-1	-697.3	12.5	0.00
814	813	Yallahs	0	-1	-702.8	12.5	0.00
815	814	Yallahs	0	-1	-708.3	12.5	0.00
816	815	Yallahs	0	-1	-713.8	12.5	0.00
817	816	Yallahs	0	-1	-719.3	12.5	0.00
818	817	Yallahs	0	-1	-724.8	12.5	0.00
819	818	Yallahs	0	-1	-730.3	12.5	0.00
820	819	Yallahs	0	-1	-735.8	12.5	0.00
821	820	Yallahs	0	-1	-741.3	12.5	0.00
822	821	Yallahs	0	-1	-746.8	12.5	0.00
823	822	Yallahs	0	-1	-752.3	12.5	0.00
824	823	Yallahs	0	-1	-757.8	12.5	0.00
825	824	Yallahs	0	-1	-763.3	12.5	0.00
826	825	Yallahs	0	-1	-768.8	12.5	0.00
827	826	Yallahs	0	-1	-774.3	12.5	0.00
828	827	Yallahs	0	-1	-779.8	12.5	0.00
829							







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ADVERTISE CALL 481 4000

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized in columns with headers for fund names, prices, and other financial metrics.

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Small table on the right side of the page, likely containing additional unit trust prices or related financial data.







Adam Barnard reveals how the Chancellor's Budget rise in stamp duty will mainly hit the shires

Gordon Brown may claim that only 2 per cent of homeowners will be affected by stamp duty changes...

An unfair tax on the South of England?

niently overlooked is the geographical distribution of the affected 2 per cent. They are almost entirely in London and southeast England.

'You do not need to live in a mansion to be hit by the increases - merely an ordinary house in a reasonably desirable location'

property on its books - will on average cost more than £500,000 in Berkshire, Surrey, Hampshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, West Sussex, Oxfordshire, Kent, Gloucestershire, Dorset, Cheshire, Wiltshire, Somerset, Leicestershire and Warwickshire.

Londoners who live in the city's nine dearest boroughs will also suffer disproportionately from the additional tax.

will sell, on average, for more than £350,000. In nine of London's 33 boroughs - Barking and Dagenham, Camden, Westminster, Ealing, Harrow, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Merton, Richmond and Wandsworth - detached houses are worth more than £250,000.

extra burden. Stories circulated of buyers threatening to abandon transactions that had run out of time unless the asking price was reduced.

AVERAGE FARMHOUSE PRICES AROUND BRITAIN. Table with columns for location and price. Includes locations like Ascot, Surrey, Hampshire, etc.



Design fair visitors at the Chelsea Harbour show

Paint, paper, pelmets - and prima donnas

For those interested in interiors, today is the final day of the Chelsea Harbour spring week design fair. Here you will find 60 international showrooms and the latest textures, shapes and colours - a showcase of the best of interior design work.

Crown Estate and mansions in Chester Square. Working for these people, she says, was a joy. But she adds: 'Behind the scenes, the enormous demands, stress and pressure of working for some clients and often having to liaise with incompatible professionals represents the other, less glamorous side, and it is all of this which has finally led me to quit.'

Interior designer Elaine Lassman (right) tells Rachel Kelly why she is quitting show apartments. A Greek businessman was unimpressed and the wife of one of the developers persuaded Mrs Lassman to undertake the interior design of the businessman's flat.



own taste. They dislike the original concept then end up wondering why they have not achieved what they originally set out to commission.

The association, she says, offers free advice to match clients to the designer most suited to them - the best way to avoid trouble.

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PROPERTY

FAX: 0171 782 7828 (TRADE) 0171 782 7799 (PRIVATE)

Real estate listings for South of Thames, City & West End, and City Docklands & East. Includes details for properties in Clapham, Greenwich, and various central London areas.

Real estate listings for City Docklands & East, Fulham, and Kennington & Chelsea. Includes details for properties in Docklands, Fulham, and Chelsea.

Real estate listings for Mayfair, Kent, Surrey, and Isle of Man. Includes details for properties in Mayfair, Kent, Surrey, and Isle of Man.

Real estate listings for Notting Hill, Richmond & Kingston, Bristol, Cornwall, Cotswolds, Cumbria, ChelSEA SW3, Bramham Gardens SW5, and others. Includes details for properties in Notting Hill, Richmond, Bristol, Cornwall, Cotswolds, Cumbria, and ChelSEA.

Exchange Place advertisement. 'AN OASIS IN THE CITY'. 'LUXURIOUSLY APPOINTED ONE, TWO & THREE BEDROOM APARTMENTS'. Includes contact information for FPD Savills.

Zone Alaska advertisement. 'TOWER BRIDGE QUARTER LONDON SE1'. 'ENORMOUS! HIGH SPEC - FULLY FITTED LOFT APARTMENTS'. Includes contact information for Alan Selby & Partners.

Real estate listings for various areas including Kent, Surrey, Hampshire, and others. Includes details for properties in Kent, Surrey, Hampshire, and other regions.

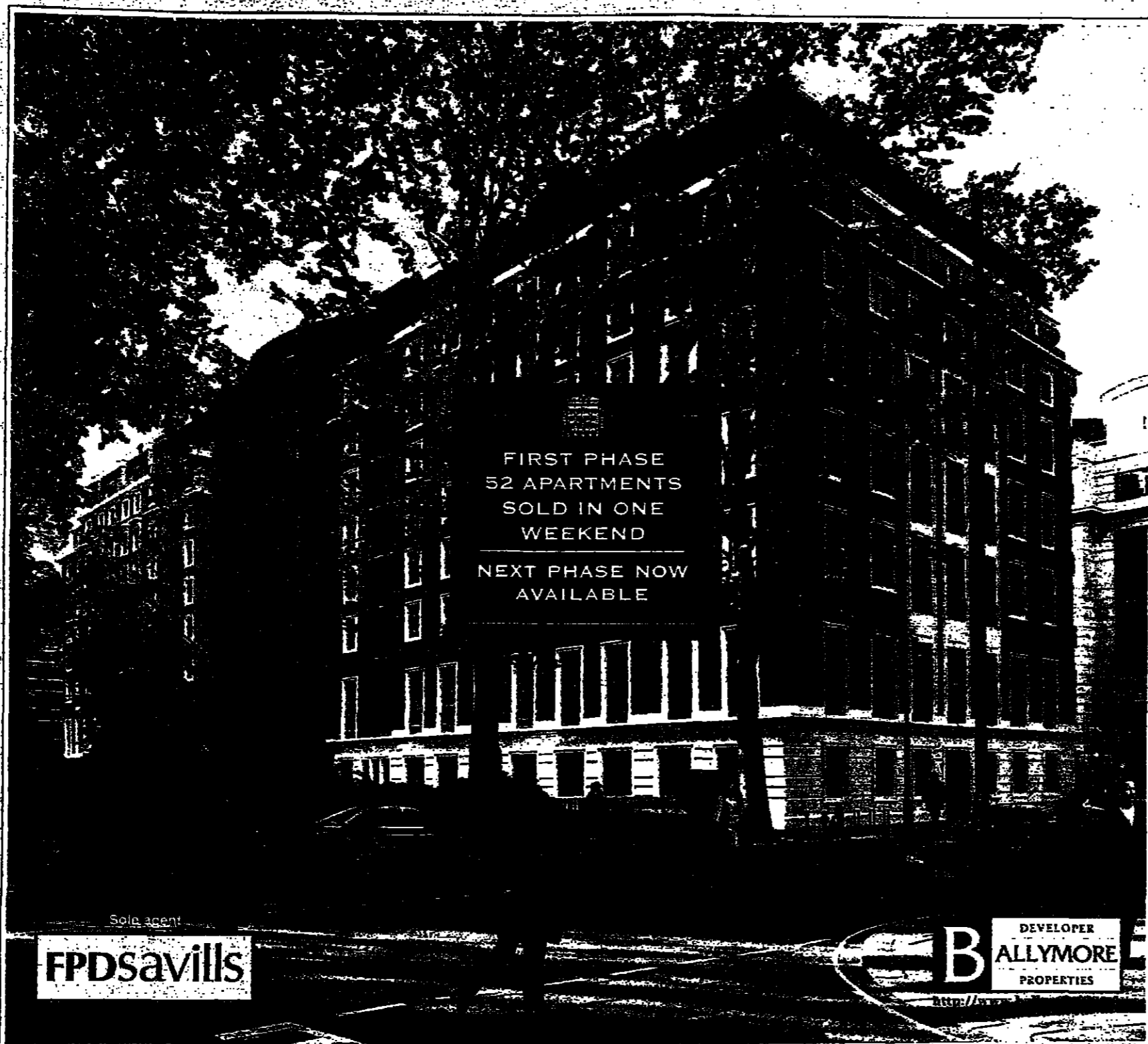


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# Deliberate exclusion can justify forcible re-entry

# Was company trading?

**Khazanchi and Another v Faircharm Investments Ltd and Others**  
**McLeod v Butterwick**

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Waller  
[Judgment March 17]

A bailiff distraining for rent or a sheriff executing a writ of fieri facias was not entitled forcibly to re-enter a dwelling-house in which goods were kept, for the purpose of removing them for sale, if the occupant had no knowledge of an intended visit and had locked the premises in the ordinary way and gone about his normal business.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing appeals by the plaintiff tenants. Deepak Kulkarni, Khazanchi and Manjit Singh Ratta, from the decision of Judge Cox in *Uxbridge County Court* (sitting at Lambeth) on March 24, 1997, and by the plaintiff, Sally McLeod, from the decision of Judge Roger Cooke sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division (*The Times* March 12, 1996, [1996] 1 WLR 995).

In the *Khazanchi* case, the third defendant bailiffs, Cuthbert and Kingsley, a firm, seeking to dislodge the first and second defendants, Faircharm Investments Ltd and Penway Ltd, for rent arrears, had entered the premises with the consent of the tenants and entered into a walking possession agreement with them which entitled him to remove the goods at any time after the specified date for payment. When the arrears were not paid the bailiff returned for the purpose of removing the goods. The premises were locked and there was no one inside.

The bailiffs, with the assistance of a locksmith and removal men, removed the lock, took the goods and resecured the premises, leaving the new key with the caretakers. In proceedings brought by the tenants, Judge Cox decided that the bailiffs were entitled to act as they had and dismissed the tenants' claim for damages.

In the *McLeod* case the sheriff, Anthony James Butterwick, entered the home of the plaintiff with her consent for the purpose of executing a writ of fieri facias. He did not remove any goods. The plaintiff refused to enter into

a walking possession agreement. Interpleader proceedings followed. Shortly after those proceedings were concluded, the sheriff, without prior notice, returned to the plaintiff's home for the purpose of removing the goods for sale. The plaintiff was out at work and there was no one at home.

The sheriff, with the assistance of a locksmith and removal men, removed the lock and goods and resecured the premises leaving a key to the new lock for the plaintiff to collect on her return. The plaintiff sued the sheriff for damages and an injunction. Her application for an interlocutory injunction to restrain the sheriff from selling her goods or entering her home without her consent was refused by Judge Cooke on the ground, inter alia, that the sheriff was entitled to act as he did.

In *Khazanchi*, Mr Kenneth Khan for the plaintiff tenants; Mr Andrew Westwood for the first and second defendants; the third defendant bailiffs did not appear and were not represented.

In *McLeod*, Ms Sally McLeod in person; Mr Michael Tillet, QC, for the defendant sheriff.

**LORD JUSTICE MORRITT** said that the appeals raised a common question as to the powers of a bailiff distraining for rent or a sheriff executing a writ of fieri facias forcibly to re-enter the premises in which the relevant goods were kept for the purpose of removing them for sale.

Distress for rent. The tenants submitted that the walking possession agreement did not authorise the bailiff to use force at any time and the common law did not entitle him to use force in the circumstances of the case.

It was not disputed that in the case of distress for rent, whatever the nature of the premises, the initial entry must be peaceable and with the consent of the tenant. Once the initial entry had been achieved and the goods impounded then they were in the custody of the law. If thereafter the distrainer was forcibly ejected or having left the premises for a temporary purpose his return was deliberately barred by the tenant then he might re-enter by force. That proposition was amply established by a num-

ber of cases to which the court was referred. His Lordship rejected the principal submission for the bailiff that after impounding he had at common law an unconditional right to re-enter by force the premises where the goods were impounded. There was no authority to support it.

Such a right would be inconsistent with the view that those premises constituted the pound for there had never been any suggestion that a landlord or his bailiff was entitled to break into the pound.

Moreover to recognise a right of forcible re-entry in all circumstances would be inconsistent with the provisions of the Law of Distress Act 1973, Section 7 conferred a right of forcible entry in the case of goods fraudulently concealed but section 10 made no similar provision when goods might be impounded on the tenant's premises.

If it had been clearly established before that Act was passed that there was a right of forcible re-entry in all cases the omission might have been explicable, but it was not, and could not have been, for previously the goods could not be impounded on private property.

His Lordship did not doubt that, subject to any question of duress, a tenant might lawfully agree that the bailiff might re-enter by force. But in his Lordship's view it was not a right controlled by the common law in the absence of such an agreement.

In *McLeod* Judge Cooke was dealing with a case of a sheriff executing a writ of fieri facias, not a bailiff levying distress. But his decision and the reasoning behind it were adopted by Judge Cox and applied to the case of the bailiff levying a distress.

Judge Cooke's conclusion involved an extension of the principle and of the existing authorities on the circumstances in which a bailiff might re-enter by force which his Lordship was unable to accept.

If no notice had been given by the bailiff of his intention to re-enter and the only circumstance was that the outer door was locked, that was insufficient to justify a forcible re-entry. The justification for permitting

force in response to cases of forcible exclusion or forcible exclusion was that given by the Privy Council in *Agar Karboolie Mohamed v The Queen* (1843) 4 Moo PC 239.

If that case truly expressed the rationale for the circumstances in which a forcible re-entry was justified then the mere fact that the door was locked could not suffice. It was not wrong for a tenant, without more, to lock the door to the demised premises whether they were domestic or commercial.

If he knew that the bailiff was seeking to re-enter but locked or left the door locked to exclude him then the tenant committed a wrong for he was wilfully obstructing the right of the bailiff to possession of the goods.

But if he did not know of the bailiff's intention to re-enter at any particular time then to leave his door locked and to absent himself without his normal affairs was his right.

As the Privy Council had indicated, if the person in possession knew the purpose of the bailiff's visit then there was no need to give further notice of it. But that was no reason for concluding that where the tenant did not know of the bailiff's intention to re-enter at a particular time and left his door locked the bailiff might break in.

His Lordship's conclusion was that a bailiff was not entitled to re-enter by force except where, having gained entry peaceably, he was expelled by force or he had been deliberately excluded by the tenant.

What amounted to deliberate exclusion must be recognised on a case-by-case basis. It would include cases where the tenant knowing of the intended visit deliberately locked the door and went away or invited to admit the bailiff refused to do so.

But it did not include the case of a tenant who had no knowledge of an intended visit by the bailiff at any particular time and locked his premises in the ordinary way and went about his business as normal.

It was necessary to construe the walking possession agreement against the common law background. The fact that there were two children involved, whose future had to be determined.

The court had considered whether there was any benefit to be achieved by hearing the appeal or whether it would make the situation more complex. His Lordship was satisfied that a declaration had no contribution to

make to Hague Convention proceedings in the US and would do nothing other than delay those proceedings.

That would be contrary to the interests of the children which the Hague Convention was designed to protect.

The legal issues that arose would in any event have to be examined

in the US. In those circumstances, his Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Simon Brown agreed.

Solicitors: Deane & Co, Hayes; Bude Nathan Iwaner, Golders Green.

Burchell & Ruston.

Section 13 provided that "if an associated company which has not carried on any trade or business at any time in that accounting period... shall be disregarded."

The taxpayer company's case was that Wynchgate did not carry on any trade or business in 1995, so that it did not count as an associated company for the purposes of section 13 and the taxpayer company got the full unrestricted benefit of the reduced rate.

For the commissioner, it was said that Wynchgate carried on, not a trade, but a business in 1995, so that it did count as an associated company. Wynchgate had been formed in 1993 and commenced a credit balance of £300.

In the calendar year 1995, the crucial period, Wynchgate carried on no trade; closed the current account; transferring the small credit balance to the deposit account; paid a corporation tax liability; and earned interest on its deposit account. That was all that happened in the year.

Before the commissioner, the inspector had relied heavily on a passage from Lord Diplock's speech in *Deputy Commissioner of American Leaf Blending Co Sdn Bhd v Director-General of Inland Revenue* [1979] AC 676, 684 that "... in the case of a company incorporated for the purpose of making profits for its shareholders and that on the authority of *American Leaf Blending Co Sdn Bhd*... it is a business."

Mr Furness said that when Wynchgate put its money on deposit but its assets to general liability, and earned interest on its deposit account. That was all that happened in the year.

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# Declaration that would delay foreign case no assistance to child

**P v P (Diplomatic immunity: Jurisdiction)**  
Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Simon Brown  
[Judgment March 11]

The granting of a declaration under section 8 of the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985 that a child had been wrongfully removed from the United Kingdom would be contrary to the interests of that child if it would not provide any assistance to a foreign court dealing with Hague Convention proceedings for the child's return but would delay those proceedings.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the mother against the decision of Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division (*The Times* March 2) that the court had no jurisdiction over her application for a declaration under section 8 of the 1985 Act that the removal of their two children by the father, a United States diplomat, was a wrongful removal within the meaning of article 3 of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

1980, set out in Schedule 1 to the 1985 Act. The President had held, on a preliminary issue, that the removal of the children at the end of a diplomatic posting was not covered by diplomatic immunity. However, state immunity precluded the court from exercising jurisdiction as the father was acting in compliance with a direct order of his government when he left with the children.

Mr Peter Duffy, QC and Mr Henry Setright for the mother; Mr Christopher Greenwood for the father and the US government; Mr David Lloyd Jones as amicus curiae.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the case raised difficult and interesting issues. However, the court was mindful of the fact that there were two children involved, whose future had to be determined.

The court had considered whether there was any benefit to be achieved by hearing the appeal or whether it would make the situation more complex. His Lordship was satisfied that a declaration had no contribution to

make to Hague Convention proceedings in the US and would do nothing other than delay those proceedings.

That would be contrary to the interests of the children which the Hague Convention was designed to protect.

The legal issues that arose would in any event have to be examined

in the US. In those circumstances, his Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Simon Brown agreed.

Solicitors: Dawson Cornwell & Co, Clifford Chance, Treasury Solicitor.

# European Law Report - Luxembourg

## No 'cooling off' for contract of guarantee

**Bayerische Hypothek- und Wechselbank AG v Dietzinger**  
Case C-45/96  
Before M. Wathelet, President of Chamber and Judges J. C. Molitoro de Almeida, D. A. O. Edward, P. Jann and L. Sevón  
Advocate General F. G. Jacobs  
(Opinion March 20, 1997)  
[Judgment March 17]

A contract of guarantee entered into by a natural person who was not acting in the course of his trade or profession did not come within the scope of the Community "cooling-off" directive where it guaranteed repayment of a debt contracted by another person who was acting within the course of his trade or profession.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference by the Bundesgerichtshof (Federal Court of Justice), Germany, for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty.

Article 4 of Council Directive 85/577/EEC of December 20, 1985 to protect the consumer in respect of contracts entered into in a business premises (OJ 1985 L32 p31) required traders to give consumers written notice of their right to cancel a contract to which the directive applied within a specified period.

The defendant's father ran a building firm in respect of which the plaintiff bank granted an overdraft facility which was guaranteed by the defendant. The contract of guarantee was concluded at the house of the defendant's parents during a visit by an employee of the bank.

The bank later sued the defendant under the guarantee, which he sought to renounce on the ground that he had not been informed of his right of cancellation under a German law which implemented Directive 85/577.

The Bundesgerichtshof referred the question whether a contract of guarantee concluded by a natural person who was not acting in the course of a trade or profession was covered by the directive.

Article 1 of the directive provides: "(1) This directive shall apply to contracts under which a trader supplies goods or services to a consumer and which are concluded away from the trader's business premises."

Article 2 provides: "For the purposes of this directive, 'consumer' means a natural person who, in transactions covered by this directive, is acting for purposes which can be regarded as outside his trade or profession."

In its judgment the Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice held: "The governments which had submitted observations considered that guarantees were not covered by the directive because a guarantee was not a contract 'under which a trader supplies goods or services to a consumer'."

They also argued that, in the absence of specific rules in the directive providing for the fate of a contract whose performance was guaranteed by the guarantor in the event of his exercising the right of cancellation, protection of guarantors was a matter for national law.

Apart from the exceptions listed in article 3(2), the scope of the directive was not limited according to the nature of the goods or

services to be supplied under a contract: the only requirement was that the goods or services must be intended for private consumption.

The grant of a credit facility was indeed the provision of a service, the contract of guarantee being merely ancillary to the principal contract, of which in practice it was usually a precondition.

Furthermore, nothing in the wording of the directive required that the person concluding the contract under which goods or services were to be supplied should be the person to whom they were supplied.

The directive was designed to protect consumers by enabling them to withdraw from a contract concluded on the initiative of the trader rather than the customer, where the customer might have been unable to see all the implications of his act.

Consequently, a contract benefiting a third party could not be excluded from the scope of the directive on the sole ground that the goods or services purchased were intended for the use of the third party outside the contractual relationship.

In view of the close link between a credit agreement and a guarantee securing its performance and the fact that the person guaranteeing repayment of a debt might either assume joint and several liability for payment of the debt or be the guarantor of its repayment, it could not be excluded that the furnishing of a guarantee fell within the scope of the directive.

Moreover, the possible termination of a contract of guarantee concluded in the context of 'door-

step selling' in the meaning of the directive was merely one particular situation, where the question could arise as to the effect of the possible inapplicability of an ancillary contract on the principal contract.

In those circumstances, the mere fact that the directive contained no provision governing the fate of the principal contract where the guarantor exercised the right of cancellation conferred by the directive could not be taken to mean that the directive did not apply to guarantees.

However, it was apparent from the wording of article 1 and from the ancillary nature of guarantees that the directive covered only a guarantee ancillary to a contract whereby, in the context of doorstep selling, a consumer assumed obligations towards the trader with a view to obtaining goods or services from him.

Furthermore, since the directive was intended to protect only consumers, a guarantee came within the scope of the directive only where, in accordance with the first indent of article 2, the guarantor had entered into a commitment for a purpose which could be regarded as unconnected with his trade or profession.

On those grounds, the European Court ruled:

"On a proper construction of the first indent of article 2 of Directive 85/577, a contract of guarantee concluded by a natural person who was not acting in the course of his trade or profession did not come within the scope of the directive where it guaranteed repayment of a debt contracted by another person who, for his part, was acting within the course of his trade or profession."

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# Foreign public service to count

Commission of the European Communities v Hellenic Republic  
Case C-151/96  
Before C. Gulmann, President of Chamber and Judges M. Wauters, D. A. O. Edward, P. Jann and L. Sevón  
Advocate General D. Ruiz-Faracho Colomer  
(Opinion December 11, 1997)  
[Judgment March 12]

A member state's refusal to take into account, for purposes relating to the salary and seniority level of an employee in its public service, a period of previous employment by him in the public service of another member state, on the sole ground that the previous employment was not performed in its own public service, was contrary to Community law.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in declaring, on an application by the Commission under article 169 of the EC Treaty, that Greece was in breach of its obligations under article 48 of the Treaty and article 7(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 of the Council of October 15, 1968 on freedom of movement for workers within the Community (OJ English Special Edition 1968 (II) p475).

A Greek law on pay for public service staff provided for years completed in the public service to be taken into account for the purposes of the salary scale and the award of additional seniority, whereas those years would have been taken into account if they had been served in a municipal or orchestra in Greece.

Article 48 of the Treaty provides: "(1) Freedom of movement for workers shall be secured within the Community."

Article 7(1) of Regulation 1612/68 provides: "A worker who is a Greek citizen shall be treated as a Greek citizen for the purposes of salary scale grading and the grant of seniority increment, whereas periods of

reason of his nationality in respect of any conditions of employment and work...

In its judgment the Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice held: "The equal treatment rule laid down in articles 48 of the Treaty and 7 of the Regulation prohibited not only overt discrimination by reason of nationality but also all covert forms of discrimination which, by the application of other distinguishing criteria, led in fact to the same result.

Unless it was objectively justified and proportionate to its aim, a provision of national law was to be regarded as indirectly discriminatory if it was intrinsically liable to affect migrant workers more than national ones and there was a consequent risk that it would place the former at a disadvantage."

It was clear from the documents before the court that the provisions of the legislation at issue, at least in their application, rendered it absolutely impossible for periods of employment in the public service of a member state other than Greece to be taken into account for the purposes of salary scale grading and the grant of seniority increment, whereas periods of

employment already completed in Greek public service were, in certain cases, taken into account...

That rule, which plainly operated to the detriment of migrant workers who had spent part of their working life in the public service of a member state other than Greece, was therefore such as to contravene the principle of non-discrimination enshrined in the Community provisions mentioned.

Greece had not adduced any evidence which could provide objective justification for that discriminatory treatment.

On those grounds, the court declared that the legislation by regulation or administrative practice, the taking into account of previous employment in the public service of another member state for the purposes of granting to an employee in Greek public service a seniority increment and of grading him on the salary scale, on the sole ground that the previous employment was not performed in Greek public service, the Hellenic Republic was in breach of its obligations under article 48 of the Treaty and article 7(1) of Regulation 1612/68.



# A dangerous age for an actress

At 40 Sharon Stone's basic instinct is to make fewer films, enjoy her new career as a married woman, and try to forget that scene. **Martyn Palmer meets her**

Sharon Stone is wary of journalists. Ever since she burst on the scene in *Basic Instinct* six years ago, she has been written about, analysed, inspected and dissected in print.

"I had this one experience with this completely obnoxious whore of a magazine journalist," she recalls. "He came to me one day and said 'I've just had lunch with four psychiatrists and they tell me you can't be happy and this is why.'"

"This man had invested so much in my unhappiness that just being around him was creating it for me. It was hideous."

But it would be wrong to suggest that Stone is difficult to interview. Not only does she have plenty to say, but she's bright enough — IQ of 154, thank you very much — to put her point of view in an articulate and often humorous manner.

A few days after celebrating her 40th birthday and barely a month after her marriage to the newspaper executive Phil Bronstein, Stone is in an upbeat mood.

Maybe she has decided that now she's sleeping with the enemy as it were, she is prepared to give us the benefit of the doubt. Encoined in the Ritz in Paris, she is here primarily to discuss her new movie, the Barry Levinson-directed underwater sci-fi thriller *Sphere* (opening here on Friday), with Dustin Hoffman and Samuel L. Jackson.

*Sphere* was her first film after an 18-month break. Typically, when she decided that the part of biochemist Beth Halperin should be hers, she pursued Levinson. "I tortured him," she says. "They didn't have the money to pay a movie star because they had already spent a fortune on the set and they had Dustin and Sam. But I was moved by the importance of the concept that we can create and manifest our own future from our aims and individual thoughts, and I kept calling Barry. I acted out scenes in his living room and I took a third of my usual salary and, well, I got it."

It was while filming *Sphere* that she met Bronstein, the executive editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, who visited the set as a friend of the producer. "I basically hated him when I first met him," Stone says. "He was tall and handsome and smart and successful. I was like 'What are you doing here? I'm trying to work. Can't you see I've got an important scene to do?'"

"Then he sent me some flowers and a book and eventually he called me from a payphone while he was on a hiking trip in the mountains. And I thought 'Well, I suppose I could talk to him...'"

Marriage has totally changed her outlook, she says, and making films

has slipped down the list of priorities. Her new interests include interior design and writing short stories. She describes them as "fantasy" and they are not yet for public consumption. "I'm starting to get offers from publishers but so far I haven't let anyone read them. Maybe I'll release them under another name. Maybe under Salman Rushdie's name."

A former small-town beauty queen and model, Stone had an unremarkable movie career until the director Paul Verhoeven cast her alongside Michael Douglas in *Basic Instinct*, playing a bisexual suspect of murder. What makes a "star" can be hard to define, but not in Stone's case. Much has been written about Verhoeven's use of that scene, the one in which the knickerless Stone crosses and uncrosses her legs while being interrogated. He says his actress knew all about it. To this day, Stone is adamant that she was not consulted as to whether or not it should go in the final cut.

"My feeling was that when he got that shot all he had to do was show it to me, privately, and for us to discuss the appropriate beneficial aspects of putting it in the picture and what it meant to the character. But he didn't want to give me the time and space to go through that process, so I lost respect for him."

Since then Stone's choices have been dubious. She made the dreary *Intersection* with Richard Gere and the downright silly *Sliver*, and the overblown action thriller *The Specialist* with Sylvester Stallone. Much more interesting was Sam Raimi's quirky western, *The Quick and the Dead*, which she co-produced, and Martin Scorsese's excellent *Casino*, for which she won a Best Actress Golden Globe.

She is now seriously considering a sequel to *Basic Instinct*. This time though, she will be calling the shots; there's no director attached to the project yet, but you can bet that Verhoeven won't be getting a call.

In *Sphere*, based on a Michael Crichton novel, Stone spends most of the film wearing a diving suit or dungarees, as one of a crack team sent to the bottom of the Pacific when a strange craft is discovered on the ocean bed. It's hardly glamorous and was physically very demanding, which she enjoyed.

She would love to do a romantic comedy, but first there's a remake of a John Cassavetes film, *Gloria*, in which she plays a 40-year-old woman who finds herself having to protect a small boy from the Mob.

"It's cool to be 40. It really is a new life. I'm happy, but you know I'm sure there's a team of psychiatrists out there somewhere who would disagree with me."

**6 I took a third of my usual salary to get the part**



All change: Sharon Stone sports more underwear and less hair for her latest part in Barry Levinson's underwater sci-fi movie, *Sphere*

## Weird magic, but cute

Musically speaking, Kristin Hersh is in a magnetic field of her own. Her songs have their own peculiar energy, their own artistic force. For this reason some observers regard her songs as at best inaccessible, at worst willfully obscure. But Hersh, like all songwriters, is simply trying to make sense of the world she sees it. It's just that her lenses are cut from different glass from your regulation National Health specs.

Hersh first came into public view in the 1980s as leader of Throwing Muses, a maverick art-rock troupe from the East Coast of America. But Hersh did anything but coast through her career or, for that matter, her personal life. A diagnosed manic-depressive, she is reliant on lithium to keep her in check, while her band went through almost as many personnel changes as your average relegation-

**POP**  
**Kristin Hersh**  
Dublin

threatened football club. Nevertheless, Throwing Muses left an impressive and decidedly underrated body of work, encompassing seven albums for 4AD records. Hersh's biggest success, though, came with her stripped-down solo album, *Hiss and Makes*. The bulk of this show was given over to this album and its newborn sister, *Strange Angels*.

So this was a no-frills night with just an acoustic guitar and a sturdy chair as Hersh's props. But despite the sparse form the show took, the content was never anything less than captivating, with the capacity crowd hanging on Hersh's every climactic chorus and self-deprecating anecdote.

Though she is stuffing 2,000-capacity venues elsewhere on this tour, this was an altogether more intimate setting, with just 400 souls lucky enough to gain entry into the Music Centre, a purpose-built venue in Dublin's burgeoning Temple Bar area.

The specially installed tiered seating gave the otherwise undistinguished hall the ambience of a theatre, while the soft-hued surreptitious lighting — which consisted of combinations of red, green and blue — was the icing on the visual cake.

The opening *Gazebo Tree* and the new single *Like You were the stand-outs* from the new album, while *Cuckoo* and *Me and My Charms* had the added advantage of familiarity. The show never flagged over the course of the 90 minutes. A big factor was Hersh's many endearing stories about her children — she is now happily married to her manager and living in domestic bliss. But musically, the key was to be found in her resonant, pitch-perfect voice and the variety in her song structures. *A Loon*, for instance, shifts between an aggressive strum and the delicately picked note, each complementing the other.

There were golden Throwing Muses' oldies too: *Delicate Cutters* and *You Cope*, for instance, were reworked for the encores. "There's magic here and magic's weird," she sings during *Shake*. Weird magic that just about sums up the Kristin Hersh live experience.

JOHN ALLISON

NICK KELLY

**CONCERTS:** Ghost of Stokowski; a noisy Icelandic newcomer; heavyweights at the piano; and Messiaen's Hollywood-style dazzler

## The long and the short of Wagner

Leopold Stokowski was certainly not lacking in self-confidence. His so-called "symphonic syntheses" of concert items from Wagner's operas are outrageous not only in the liberties they take — Wotan's Farewell without Wotan, the love scene from *Tristan and Isolde* with neither Tristan nor Isolde — but also in the demands they make on the conductor.

In programming two of these Stokowski arrangements alongside original Wagner in his concert with the BBC Philharmonic, Matthias Bamert had at least one advantage over his colleagues. Having been an assistant to Stokowski, he knows how the old man worked. While they could scarcely be more different in personality, that was no great loss to Bamert here. Indeed, by excluding spurious glamour from the orchestral sound — and it needed only a change of emphasis in colour and texture to include it — he made the whole thing more acceptable.

Better still, given the structural challenge of more than 30 minutes from *Tristan and Isolde* — an unbroken sequence passing from the Prelude to the Act II love scene and from there to the *Liebestod* — he was not at all intimidated by it. It is true that the opera is rather longer than that. But the whole point of the first hour of Act III is to separate the love scene from the *Liebestod* and in the meantime to divert attention to different material and other dramatic issues. Passing directly from the one to the other, immediately reviving the same kind of emotion with much the same musical material but elevating them to another level, is a considerable problem. Somehow, Bamert



found the reserves to secure a resplendent *Liebestod*. The genuine Wagner — in a programme too lumpy and too synthetic to attract the full house the BBC Philharmonic is now beginning to expect for its concerts in the Bridgewater Hall — was the *Rienzi* overture and *Wesendonck Lieder*. If the overture went according to plan, fresh in phrasing and spruce in rhythm, the *Lieder* did not. Kathryn Harries had withdrawn, to be replaced by a soprano of rather less experience. After a false start in *Der Engel*, however, Jane Irwin did go on to demonstrate that she has an attractively authentic Wagner sound.

GERALD LARNER

## Thrills of fire and ice

A seismic shock rumbled through Glasgow City Hall at the weekend as the music of a little-known revolutionary joined that of Beethoven in the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra's series *Beethoven the Revolutionary*. The noisy newcomer was Icelandic's pioneering composer Jón Leifs who set out in the first half of this century to create a music unique to his emerging country and himself.

So unique, he has been an impossible act to follow. Works like *Geyfir* which shook Glasgow to the core, and the recently recorded *Hekla* and *Saga Symphony* are a law unto themselves. The only points of reference for the ear are the processions of parallel fifths and the rough-beat, irregular accents that come from Ancient Icelandic song and poetic declamation. In *Geyfir*, a short tone poem, they churn around in the subterranean strata of contra-bassoon,



trombones, horns and trumpets, to give warning of impending eruption in a series of thudding strokes on two sets of timpani.

The BBCSO is getting used to dipping its toes into such scalding musical water: this is the sort of programming its principal conductor, Osmo Vänskä, relishes, and his conducting experience in Iceland and Finland sends many an aftershock through British musical life.

The juxtaposition of the Leifs with Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* offered more, though, than a cheap thrill. Leifs believed the object of art was "to provide mankind with the stamina to endure life's tribulations — to make people stronger". For both composers, the elemental forces of nature were, inextricably, expressions of man's inner ener-

gies; and this was acutely felt in Vänskä's performance of the Sixth Symphony.

The brisk, bright articulation of every phrase fragment made bows dance over the strings and electricity crackle in the air long before the famous storm. Thanks to Vänskä's use of the new Bärenreiter Urtext edition, the violins were eloquently muted throughout the slow movement, revealing the beauty of the woodwind solos. The merry-making and song of the symphony was played out in bright, primitive shapes and colours, rather like a pastoral scene from a Viennese clockface.

Vienna, endurance — the notes had already been sounded before the interval in a passionate performance by young Jennifer Koh of Berg's Violin Concerto and, in this most stimulating of evenings, prefaced by Sibelius's stormy tone-poem, *The Oceanides*.

HILARY FINCH

## Darkness at the expense of clarity

Two composers central to the German Romantic tradition made up Nikolai Demidenko's recital on Sunday, the latest instalment of the International Piano Series. The heavyweight works by Beethoven and Schumann formed a satisfying programme well suited to Demidenko's brand of pianism, but they also drew attention to old shortcomings in his musical make-up.

Both sides of this considerable artist's playing made themselves felt in his account of Beethoven's *Hammerklavier Sonata*, but ultimately the good won over the less good. Too often this was a *Hammerklavier* with emphasis on the hammer, yet there were moments when he went straight to the heart of the matter. The opening chords rang out so pervasively that even when he caught the lighter side of what follows, the movement lost its flamboyance. Similarly, the scherzo seemed much too heavy.

But then Demidenko held the audience rapt for the whole of the long Adagio, summoning up all the spiritual depth of late Beethoven. The movement's soaring tune had a lonely beauty, and its dusky colours were painted in with subtlety. The fiery fugue was free of excess, a virtuoso tour de force. Little slips hardly mattered, and were a good reminder that here was a real, living artist, not a technically-perfect circus act.

It is hardly surprising that Demidenko's Schumann is quite dark, and in parts of the Sonata No 2 in G minor this darkness was at the expense of clarity and balance. Still, the performance was true to the spirit of the composer: the first movement had a sense of fantasy, and the Andantino



went with song-like simplicity. Best of all was Schumann's *Humoresque*. Demidenko was dogged in his approach, but he caught the quiet poetry, wit and prayer-like fervour of the succeeding episodes with ease. And though the mosaic structure can elude some players, here the work flowed smoothly from one section to the next.

JOHN ALLISON

NICK KELLY

## Gamelan a long way east of Eden

Koussevitzky, who commissioned Messiaen's *Turangalila Symphony*, dreamt it would have the impact of a postwar Rite of Spring. Instead it was derided — not for being avant-garde, but for being glitzy. As one critic wrote: "The trashiest Hollywood composers have met their match."

Messiaen was subsequently canonised as a mystical genius, and *Turangalila* seen as one of his poems of ecstasy. In fact, that early critic was not far wrong. For all its mammoth structure of interlocking cycles, its integration of atonality, modality and tonality, its gamelan-inspired sonority, there was never a film score with more star-bursting dazzle.

In this performance Mark Elder drove the London Philharmonic forward with tenacity and passion; tempos were lively and rhythms sharp, especially in the complex counterpoint of the Finale. The



brass played their themes with the right grandeur, and there were fine solos in strings and wind. Peter Donohoe threw himself into the piano part, the celeste, glockenspiel and tubular bells brilliantly synchronising with his gestures.

This performance was the culmination of the "Classical Fusions" day focused on the Indonesian gamelan. An easily executed idea, one would have thought, since the South Bank sits on one of the busiest gamelans in the Western world: in any one week there are up to 400 people playing on it, and the South Bank Gamelan Players are an expert outfit.

Unfortunately, political correctness of the worst kind led to a hasty decision to

import Wacana Budaya, an amateurish gamelan group from Frankfurt, simply because they are racially Indonesian. Glancing in panic at their notes, the players struggled through several dull elementary numbers, one or two of them droning almost inaudibly in a sad approximation of song, before four anxious novice dancers arrived on stage for a display of breathtaking ineptitude.

It was an insult to the audience, but also to the South Bank Gamelan Players, who had been relegated to the foyer during the interval, and whose sweet-voiced singer against complex rippling wedding music soon drew a crowd. Moreover, with their repertoire of traditional and Western-composed gamelan music, this was the group to provide a real bridge between musical cultures.

HELEN WALLACE

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# Off the wall and into the mainstream

Cultural polyglot Michael Morris tells Andy Lavender how he turned a taste for the avant-garde into an industry

Your head may not have turned when, in 1987, Michael Morris left his job as director of performing arts at London's Institute of Contemporary Arts. But then, how were you to know that this simple departure might give rise to entire new departments in British arts production? For Morris is now the director of Cultural Industry and a co-director of Artangel, production companies whose imprint is to be found on some of the most eye-catching new work to have surfaced in the past few years. This is not just a question of smart programming. Morris's way of doing things might expand the horizons of theatre and visual arts producers in decades to come.

"One of the reasons why I left the ICA was because I felt that putting on stuff that was extraordinary in a 160-seat theatre was marginalising it," Morris says. "I would like to think that the artists we work with are not conventional, but we do work in a point of very deliberately working in conventional and mainstream auditoriums. I've always wanted to promote work that I care about in the mainstream."

For which purpose, he says, he formed Cultural Industry. Productions by the likes of Robert Wilson, Robert Lepage, Pina Bausch and Laurie Anderson demonstrate that Morris is bringing to Britain's stages the cream of the Western world's avant-garde, even if some of the artists are greying round the temples. Morris has been culturally industrious over the past months, working on future presentations of Lepage's work (a devised show about the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright, a multimedia cabaret with Lepage himself as MC, and a production of Gustav Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder*) and new shows by Pina Bausch and La La La Human Steps. Meanwhile, *Shock-Headed Peter*, directed by Phelim McDermott and Julian Crouch, two of the more original talents in British theatre, opens on Friday at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds.

All of which sounds like excitement enough for one producer. But Morris is involved in another com-

pany whose projects, in the long term, might prove yet more influential. In 1991 he was appointed, along with James Lingwood, to direct the artistic programme of Artangel, an operation dedicated to producing site-specific work. "At that point Artangel was doing visual arts of an urban interventionist kind," Morris says. "James and I wanted to broaden the range of artists that Artangel worked with and increase the profile of the projects and of the company itself."



Almost everyone who wants to innovate has to operate between the cracks

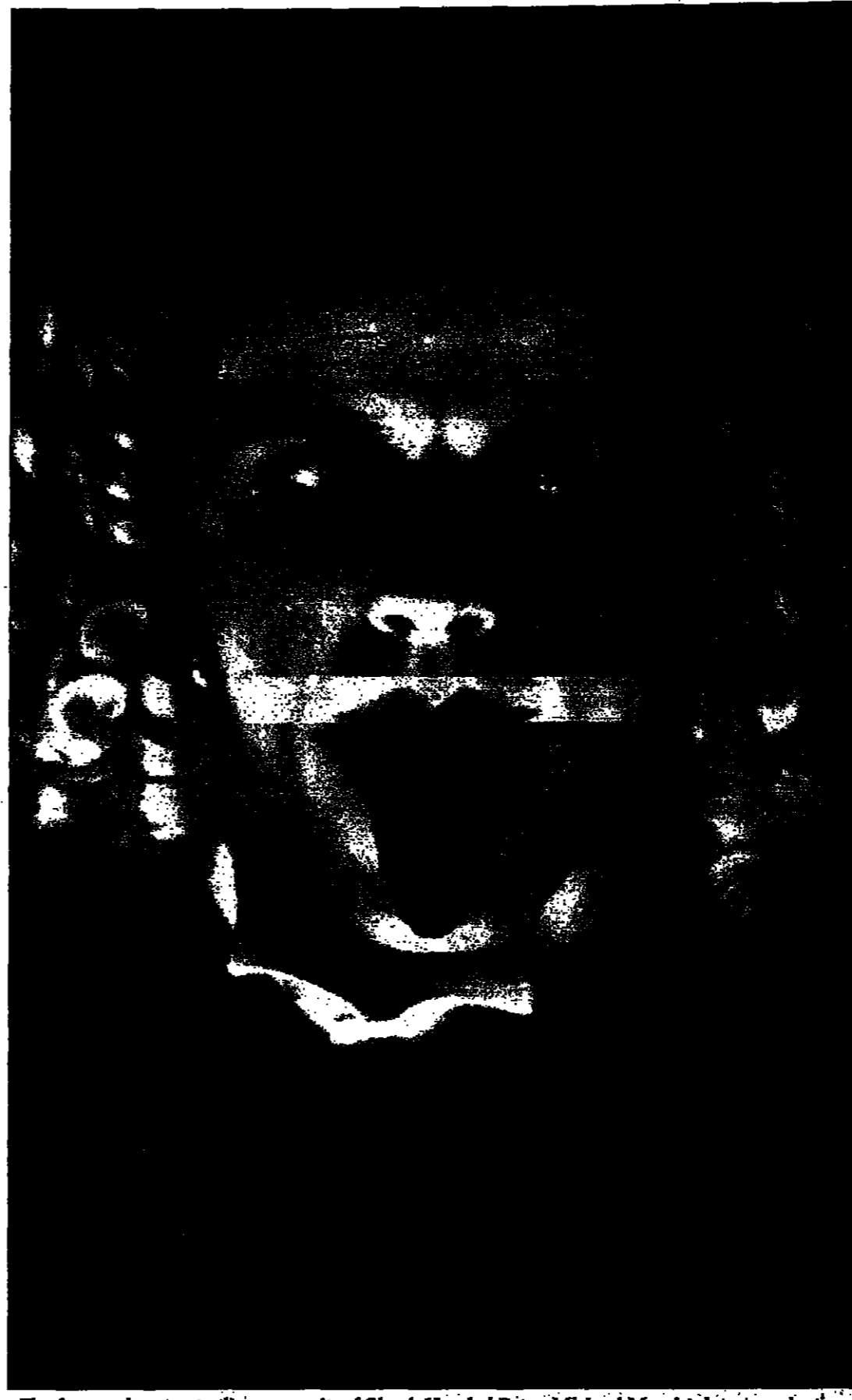
All objectives successfully achieved. Artangel's projects include Rachel Whiteread's Turner Prize-winning *House*, a concrete cast of a Victorian terraced house which stirred a lively controversy to do with the nature of public art, and Robert Wilson's *FIG*, an installation in a disused underground prison, near Tower Bridge. Neil Bartlett's oratorio *Seven Sacraments* is about to tour to Southwark Cathedral, Southwell Minster and St Bartholomew's Church in Brighton. And Lingwood has just overseen the

opening of *The Palace of Projects*, an installation by the Russian artist Ilya Kabakov at London's oft-neglected Roundhouse Theatre. Each project can claim distinctiveness, as an event shaped by its location. But the larger point is that each is partly conceived by Lingwood and Morris, as much as by the artists themselves. This really is a case of producer-as-artist. "The way we work is to say, 'It would be great to do a project with this particular person', and then through conversation with that person we come to an area of interest," Morris says. "The best kinds of project happen as something that's already latent within the artist's mind. We create an opportunity to bring it to the fore. Artangel's role is as a very proactive and, I hope, benign commissioning editor."

This kind of activity on the part of the producer — both conceptual and creative — is found more often in television and publishing than in the theatre or the visual arts. If it suggests a fresh entrepreneurial spirit, the fact remains that the work Morris produces costs more than can be covered by box-office returns alone. "We are motivated by ideas," he says. "The energy isn't about making money, the energy is about making projects."

Let us not forget, however, that producers also look after the balance sheets. Artangel currently receives funding from the Arts Council and the National Lottery. There is a four-year sponsorship deal with the German brewery Becks, and a robust private patron scheme. About a hundred individuals act as theatrical angels, paying either £350 a year, or £1,000 for four years.

"Not only do you get invited to all the openings, but every Christmas we give our patrons a limited edition — it can be a photograph, a print, a book — connected with one of the projects," Morris says. "There was a book by Rachel Whiteread of photographs of *House*, for instance, which is now worth far more than the subscription." Artangel almost always offers the same flat fee, regardless of the reputation of the artist or the scale of



Five faces make up a startling composite of *Shock-Headed Peter*, Michael Morris's latest production.

the project. The invitation to work in a certain way is, one presumes, as appealing as the money. "We are always jealous of colleagues in France and Germany because of the huge amounts of state funding that the arts get in those countries," Morris says. "But whenever they come over here and see our work, they say, 'This could never happen

in France and Germany.' Because actually it's very difficult to make things happen between the cracks there, whereas here almost everyone who wants to innovate has to operate between the cracks." The evidence suggests that he has become rather good at it. The hope, surely, is that other producers follow, making the cracks wider.

"There isn't anybody who's doing what I'm doing at the moment," Morris says, "which is trying to get large audiences for artists who are really looking at the future of theatre." *Shock-Headed Peter* is at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds (0113-271700) from Friday. For details of Artangel projects call 0171-336 6803.

## Keep moving

"WHEN everything is sexualised, nothing is sensual any more, and when everything is politicised, nothing is political any more," announces Gill Lyon towards the end of the Brecht-influenced *After the Orgy*. This is good meat for dramatic exploration, and in theory provides one of the main themes for Volcano's latest show, yet *After the Orgy* seems to wallow in a confusion about exactly what it is trying to say or evoke.

This is a shame, because there is so much potential onstage. It looks fabulous, with a live rock band, hydraulic pulleys, a neo-video cinematic tricks and video footage, two excellent physical performers and, most of all, an awful lot of porn, relayed on TV screens. What more could a painter want? As if turned out, *After the Orgy* becomes fragmented. Sometimes this is deliberate, such as when Juan



Carrasco gives a passionate speech about love, and the audience is so distracted by the projection above his head of a woman fondling her own vast breasts that we take the place of his unlistening, unresponsive lover.

But most of the time we become so satiated with information that we lose the ability to discriminate. The theme has been taken on half-heartedly at best, and eventually succeeds only because of its poor execution: attention is continually distracted away from the two performers.

Lyon is a glory when in motion, but when she stops dancing or fighting she loses magnetism. Carrasco is also given an excess of text to struggle through, most of which is obscured by his heavily accented delivery. This is a waste of two talented physical performers.

The fact that the pair are also very beautiful creates a problem of its own. Frantic about in a state of underperformed perfection under large projections of seedy pornography, they make it seem, by comparison, fairly comic and physically ridiculous. This rather glib attitude hints at a lack of depth in favour of the cheap thrill, and suggests that Volcano is no better than the culture it is mocking; it too knows that sex sells.

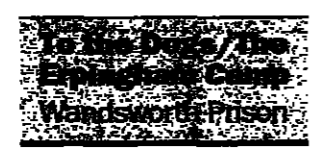
HETTIE JUDAH

## The nick knack

IF YOU were asked what sort of play you would find in what still looks like a gloowering fortress, you would probably answer: something rigorous but unadventurous, maybe something austere "improving". Not a piece improvised by prisoners with the help of our most exciting Asian company, Tara. Certainly not a play by an eminent jailbird and professional subversive.

One of the two plays currently in Wandsworth's ex-officio repertoire is Joe Orton's *Erpingham Camp*. The other is a short "devised play" called *To the Dogs* and involving, of all unexpected subjects, Amundsen's expedition to the South Pole in 1911. Six men in blue prison shirts act out, simply and punchily, the tale of a man who has never appealed to British tastes. He was foreign. He beat Scott to the bottom of the world and didn't have the decency to end up dead. Worse, he died by subsisting on his transport: he devoured his dogs.

But Amundsen also survived conflict and defied blizzard, fog and terrible temperatures. "We wanted the inmates to draw a connection between the ambition of a group of explorers and their own ambitions," writes the director, Iqbal Hussain, in the programme, and maybe there are other connections. If the piece involves the pains and



perils of achievement, it also touches on the yearning for the normal. I don't know if it was Clive C., Peter W., Sean C., Rob R., or Daniel B. who ended up saying "the only thing we dream of is the day we get home"; but Amundsen would have known what these gifted amateurs felt. Orton's picture of a holiday camp modelled on Colditz is hardly lacking in point either. Bob Taylor's exuberant production opens with a prison officer wearily saying "Association's over, back to your cells" and ends with him completing the same order with "there's nothing like a nice quiet nick". The point is that Erpingham's nick is not quiet but, with the campers in revolt against the redcoats, increasingly reminds you of the uprising in *The Bacchae*. It is fun, terrific fun, packed with mischievous lines and gleeful steam-letting. I am sure that Aron K., Steve B., John P. and the rest of an enjoyably zealous cast found it cathartic. I suspect the powers at Wandsworth do so too.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## Antiquarian dream-seller

THIS two-hour trip into the nooks and crannies of John Aubrey's memory was first performed in the 1960s by Roy Dotrice, who earned himself a place in the record books when the production turned into the longest-running one-man show. Patrick Garland had selected the items from Aubrey's famous *Lives* and miscellanea and directed Dotrice, and now directs his selection again with Michael Williams as the antique antiquary, tottering between wakefulness and sleep as he shares with us the grains of a lifetime's gleaning.

Williams is a gnomish, rubicund figure whose wispy white goatee and mustaches are the ghosts of what a youthful Royalist might once have grown in honour of Charles I. Who we in the audience are is not so certain. Aubrey may well be dreaming us, because the lighting designed by Robin Carter varies with his moods, triumphantly golden when he recalls the coronation of Charles II, but at any time likely to brighten or fade as though Bloomsbury in 1697, where and when the play is set, were subject to a particularly savage plague of eclipses.

### Brief Lives

Tim Goodchild's set is a suspended avalanche of clutter where shelves of dusty volumes climb to the ceiling, tapestries hang half off their tenterhooks, and the cobwebbed tables and chairs are freighted with pewter pots, stuffed animals, scraps of food and much else besides, all contributing to the impression of an exterior life as disordered as the interior one. Many of Aubrey's anecdotes have passed into the accepted social knowledge of his century, though some rarer ones concerning the great arrive second-hand. Did Shakespeare really say "William the Conqueror comes before Richard III!" when discovered in bed with a lady who had expected him to be Richard Burbage? Who knows, but I hope so. Though Williams has played sour, snappy characters in the past they do not exactly dominate recent sections of his curriculum vitae, where he has come to specialise in a range of roughish, not to say cosy, folk. As



Memories of 1697: Michael Williams interprets the cluttered reminiscences of the diarist John Aubrey.

Aubrey he goes in for more cackles and mumbling oh-ohs than I wanted. They emphasise display more than empathy. But he is good with silence. Not I'm afraid, the tricky hesitation that separates Marba from Mary in a tale about a monstrous baptism, but the sudden pause when overcome by a sense of loss. All those happier days that were overthrown by the Civil War; those curiosities from the past that never escaped what he calls the Teeth of Time.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## Polishing history

STUCK on one side of the stage like some sort of ironic postage stamp is a small poster for the Cape Times newspaper, *James Christopher writes*. On it is the headline "Mandela Meets Spice Girls".

Leaning on his shoeshine box on the other side is Kat Diamond, a hoxy cove with an opening song, *Memory*, that shimmies us back in time to the "coloured" vocal harmony group he started on the streets of District Six, Cape Town, in 1957. The four-legged Cavalla Kings, led by Kat's pugacious younger self (Jody Abrahams), harmonise, schmooze, rock, locomote, twist and doo-wop quite spectacularly through two acts of 1950s nostalgia.

The boys are marketed as sticky as if they were indeed the Spice Girls. What gives David Kramer and Taliep Petersen's musical an edge over the endless loop of corruption shows is that it is based on the true story of Salie Daniels, the real-life shoeshiner who plays the narrator, Kat. Though all the songs are original, most of them sound like fresh lyrics stapled over old tunes.

Salie looks remarkably spry for a man in his late fifties, and is blessed with a voice like torn silk, so it is hard to believe how he ended up buffing footwear. The problem is



clearly his memory. The story of how the band played their first gig and cut their first record is infelicitously imprinted in the songs: "What is missing is any sense of the harsh, cerebral politics that turned District Six into the wasteland it is today. Even their job at the Claridges Hotel in Durban, where the Kings had to work as bell-hops before they performed at night, is smoothed into a terminally comedy number.

The characters are similarly slight. There is the downish Ballie and his crush on big-bottomed girl Josephine. There is Magoo, still suspiciously wearing grey school shorts at the age of 18. There's Bingo, Kat's best buddy, a serial hit with the ladies who is constantly twitting with Salie Magoo. And there's Kat, seemingly smarter than every-one but who fritters everything away on cars.

Crucially, the demise of the band, like the bulldozing of District Six, is tucked apologetically between the last two numbers, rendering what might have been real into *West End fantasy*. Ultimately all polish but no spit.

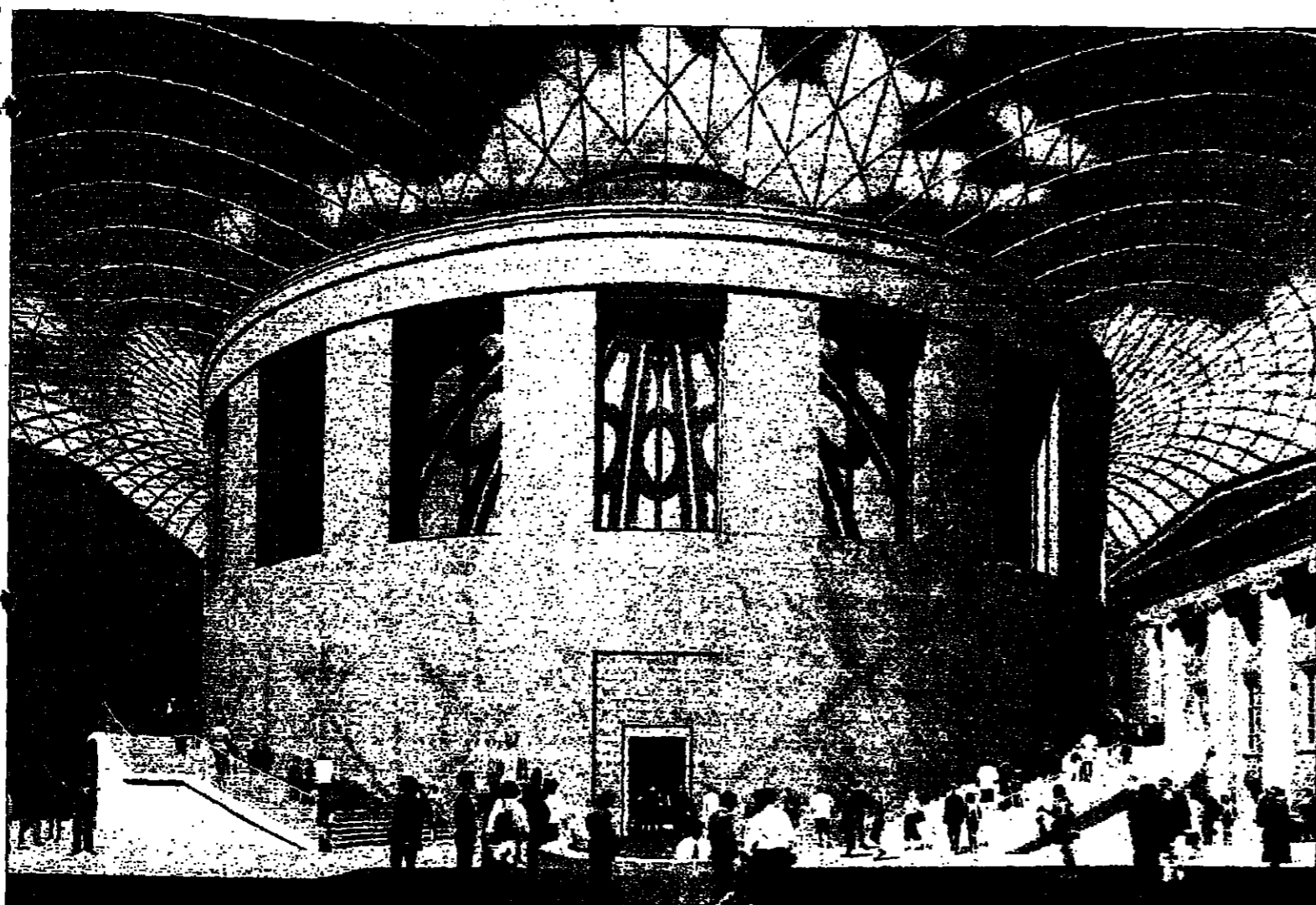
FLIGHT by MIKHAIL BULGAKOV in a new adaptation by RON HUTCHINSON. "Widely, indeed, tearfully funny, an astonishing play." "A night of exquisite high drama, and the revelation of a masterpiece." "KENNETH CRANHAM is outstanding." "ALAN HOWARD gives one of his best performances." Olivier: Thurs 26, Fri 27, Mon 30 & Tues 31 March at 7.15pm, Sat 28 March at 2.00pm & 7.15pm & continuing. Royal National Theatre Box Office 0171-352 3000

GREAT BRITISH HOPES Rising stars in the arts firmament CHE WALKER Age: 29. Profession: Playwright. Che? Yes. Named after the great Latin American revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara by his famous actress mother, Anne Mitchell, and his director father, Rob Walker. "My parents were serious socialists. Che was killed when my mother was pregnant with me. They had his poster on the wall. It made sense really." Claim to fame: Che's first play *Been So Long*, a hard-hitting look at Camden's underworld, opens the Royal Court's new season of contemporary plays in the Theatre Upstairs on April 7. On the strength of the script he has already been flown out to LA and has also been commissioned to write treatments for both TV and film. Secret of the play's authenticity: "I was born and bred in Camden. The characters in the play are composite parts of the people I've known." Strong left-wing views? Yes. He was at the infamous poll

ing 'Power to the people.' Credentials: Walker trained as an actor at Webber Douglas and has been playing in shows like *The Bill* for the past seven years. He also arrested Roy Hudd in Denis Potter's *Lipstick on Your Collar*. "Part of why I started writing was because I was tired of copper roles." Biggest influences: Philip Ridley, Jim Cartwright, Derek Blackwood and a certain revolutionary icon. Currently: "I'm adapting Euripides' *Iphigenia at Aulis* which opens at the Southwark Playhouse in May. It's a long way from Camden." Or Cuba. JAMES CHRISTOPHER Does he wear a beret to rehearsals? "No. Nor do I walk around Camden shout-

Great C... (Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page)





A computer-generated image of the view across the Great Court, with the Round Reading Room at the centre and Norman Foster's 'dome' overhead

# Great Court's big catch

### The new centrepiece of the British Museum should be filled with artefacts, not left bare, says Marcus Binney

The world over, museums are spending fortunes on creating vast, lofty entrance halls where sometimes barely a work of art is to be seen. Beneath I.M. Pei's glass pyramid the Louvre has its cavernously empty stone-walled concourse. At Barcelona's new Museum of Modern Art, Richard Meier has designed a dazzling white grand stair that takes up half the building and consigns works of art to gloomy rooms behind.

This month the British Museum has set about building the greatest atrium of them all, glazing over its entire 300ft-long Great Court. This could be the most exciting display of sculpture in London, but at present minimalism looks set to triumph over any call to use the space for a sizeable display of treasures long consigned to stores and basements.

Still, there are good reasons to be excited over the museum's plans. For more than a century the Great Court has been hidden from view, filled by the vast Round Reading Room (opened in 1877) and surrounding bookstacks.

Great institution though it was, the library completely disorientated the museum's visitors, confronting them with constant changes of direction and level as they battled round the surrounding galleries.

By scooping out the bookstacks around the rotunda, Sir Norman Foster opens up direct routes from the centre of the museum to galleries at every level.

"No longer will you be fighting your way past large parties being lectured on the

weight of the new roof will be carried on a ring of steel columns built into a new stone wall cladding the rotunda. To ensure accuracy and to minimise time spent on installation, large parts will be pre-assembled off-site.

Foster's strongest suit has long been the quality of light in his buildings. Much of the beauty of the Great Court will

**6 This could be the most exciting display of sculpture in London**

scale pieces of sculpture will be all that is appropriate — an Easter Island head, a colossal fragment of a classical statue and an Egyptian obelisk, perhaps Cleopatra's Needle brought indoors to escape the pollution of the Thames Embankment.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, still barely discussed, would be a Lapidarium such as that at Sir John Soane's Museum with tier on tier of antiquities climbing the walls. This could be done with pieces from the museum's reserve collection. But the most spectacular, and representative, method would be to utilise the museum's vast collection of casts, creating a display as thrilling as the V&A's cast court.

From 1836, the museum made casts not only of its own treasures but of antiquities elsewhere, many of which have deteriorated or are inaccessible, as in the case of the Achaemenid sculpture in Iran.

A display of casts in the Great Court could be the museum in microcosm, touching on all the great ancient civilisations — Assyrian, Egyptian, Greek and Roman, as well as areas such as Mexico, where the museum never collected originals.

In the 20th century, museums have focused on the authentic and the original, but today we increasingly look at antiquities not just as fine art, but as keys to understanding history. At the moment, the

British Museum's computer perspectives show the new stone walls of the rotunda almost bare. We need sketches showing how they could be covered with inscriptions, hieroglyphs and stauary. Crowded displays of ancient sculpture can offer exciting juxtapositions, as the museum's display of the Townley marbles in the basement shows. In Ancient Rome itself, sculpture was often as crowded as in a Victorian cemetery.

A wonderful series of idealised early 19th-century watercolours by James Stephanoff shows the museum's galleries gloriously packed from floor to ceiling with friezes and reliefs. But all the museum's computer generations show at present is a faint suggestion that the names of donors (such as the mysterious Lord and Lady Tidbury) may be carved around the rotunda in metre-high letters.

Foster is also turning his attention to repairing the museum's magnificent forecourt. Here a battle fought recently in Seville is relevant. At the time of the 1992 World Expo numerous sleepy little squares were expensively repaved with an insistent Modernist checker-grid. But around Seville's wonderful cathedral, the entire plaza was relaid in huge rectangular slabs of natural stone with an aplomb worthy of Renaissance Italy.

The British Museum deserves no less — paving that is as bold, noble and classically proportioned as Sir Robert Smirke's great colonnade behind.

## LONDON

**CHAMBER MUSIC:** The Proton Ensemble of London continues its 15th anniversary celebrations with a concert featuring music by Mahler, Schumann, Mendelssohn and Strauss. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1. Tel: 0171 252 1411. Tickets: 7.50pp. W

**LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:** The dynamic Italian conductor Riccardo Chailly leads the LSO in a power-packed concert of 19th-century music, including the 5th and 6th symphonies of Beethoven. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7. Tel: 0171 275 3700. Tickets: 7.50pp. W

**SALVY JACK AND THE SPACE VIKENS:** David Scahill plays the jazz opera in a musical described as 'surreal and dreamlike' at the Barbican. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2A. Tel: 0171 444 5011. Opens tonight. From Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 4pm and 8.30pm. W

**SEPARATE TABLES:** The play by Caryl Phillips, set in the 1950s, is a powerful and moving story of a young boy who is taken to a boarding school in Barbados. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2A. Tel: 0171 444 5011. Opens tonight. From Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 4pm and 8.30pm. W

**UNCLE VAMPIRE:** A new musical about the life of the vampire hunter Van Helsing. The Cuff, London SE1. Tel: 0171 352 6325. Previews from tonight. From Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 4pm and 8.30pm. W

**THE GREAT GATSBY:** The play by F. Scott Fitzgerald, set in the 1920s, is a powerful and moving story of a young man who is taken to a boarding school in Barbados. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2A. Tel: 0171 444 5011. Opens tonight. From Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 4pm and 8.30pm. W

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## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marti Hargie

**ELSEWHERE**  
**BIRMINGHAM:** Two string quartets, including the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, play a concert of music by Beethoven, Brahms and Schubert. Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham. Tel: 0121 455 1234. Tickets: 7.50pp. W

**LIVERPOOL:** The Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Sir Mark Elder, plays a concert of music by Beethoven, Brahms and Schubert. Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool. Tel: 0151 252 1411. Tickets: 7.50pp. W

**MANCHESTER:** The Manchester Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Sir Mark Elder, plays a concert of music by Beethoven, Brahms and Schubert. Royal Exchange, Manchester. Tel: 0161 275 3700. Tickets: 7.50pp. W

**NOTTINGHAM:** The Nottingham Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Sir Mark Elder, plays a concert of music by Beethoven, Brahms and Schubert. Nottingham City Hall, Nottingham. Tel: 0151 252 1411. Tickets: 7.50pp. W

**PLYMOUTH:** The Plymouth Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Sir Mark Elder, plays a concert of music by Beethoven, Brahms and Schubert. Plymouth City Hall, Plymouth. Tel: 01752 252 1411. Tickets: 7.50pp. W

**REDDING:** The Redding Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Sir Mark Elder, plays a concert of music by Beethoven, Brahms and Schubert. Redding Town Hall, Redding. Tel: 01827 252 1411. Tickets: 7.50pp. W

**ROCHESTER:** The Rochester Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Sir Mark Elder, plays a concert of music by Beethoven, Brahms and Schubert. Rochester City Hall, Rochester. Tel: 01562 252 1411. Tickets: 7.50pp. W

**STAMFORD:** The Stamford Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Sir Mark Elder, plays a concert of music by Beethoven, Brahms and Schubert. Stamford City Hall, Stamford. Tel: 01938 252 1411. Tickets: 7.50pp. W

**TRURO:** The Truro Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Sir Mark Elder, plays a concert of music by Beethoven, Brahms and Schubert. Truro City Hall, Truro. Tel: 01872 252 1411. Tickets: 7.50pp. W

**WIMBORNE:** The Wimborne Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Sir Mark Elder, plays a concert of music by Beethoven, Brahms and Schubert. Wimborne Town Hall, Wimborne. Tel: 01202 252 1411. Tickets: 7.50pp. W

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**EDINBURGH:** The distinguished conductor Claudio Abbado leads the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the SOGO Chorus in a concert featuring Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*. Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh. Tel: 0131 225 1411. Tickets: 7.50pp. W

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##







RACING

Dartnall hunts more success under Rules

By CARL EVANS

ROBERT ALNER completed his climb from point-to-pointing to the summit of National Hunt racing when Cool Dawn won the Cheltenham Gold Cup last week. Victor Dartnall will begin his own journey when he applies for a trainer's licence in June.

Alner trained and rode many point-to-point winners before turning professional. His achievement serves as an example of what can be built on humble beginnings. Meanwhile, the hunting and point-to-pointing communities are delighted that one of their advocates has a place among jump racing's elite.

Based in North Devon, Dartnall has an outstanding record in hunt racing. He began with a handful of pointers in 1995 and has saddled 75 winners from just 135 runners, a phenomenal strike-rate in an increasingly competitive sport.

He has twice trained the winner of the Grand Mariner Award, given to the season's most successful pointer, and last year landed the trophy for saddling the most hunter-chase winners. His rivals could be forgiven for breathing a sigh of relief when he announced his decision to challenge the professionals.

"I enjoy point-to-pointing, but it has a long break from June to January," Dartnall said. "I hope to have about ten horses when I start and with luck it will build up."

A former amateur rider and one-time farm manager, Dartnall realised his dream to train horses after his brother-in-law, Nick Viney, sold the family business. With some of that cash plus Dartnall's savings, a cottage near Barnstaple was converted into a house and stables, and an all-weather gallop installed.

Many new owners have since joined the yard, but it is the Viney-owned pair of Silvestro and Mist or King Torus who would be the first to put Dartnall to the test. He is a fitting note to end this period in their partnership.

"In a way it will be a relief to change codes and start at the bottom again," he said. "Most of my runners seem to start at odds-on and that creates pressure. People start saying there's something wrong if one of them gets beaten."

Dartnall is not alone in harbouring ambitions under Rules. Mark Jackson, who saddled Grimley Gale to finish fourth to Earthmover at Cheltenham last week, has a small string in Herefordshire and hopes to make his name this summer.

It is a similar story in Cheshire, where Richard Ford, an excellent amateur rider who won the Aintree Fox Hunters' Cup on Rolling Ball, is putting together a string of firm-ground pointers which he hopes will make his mark in summer jumping.

Aided by his wife, Carrie, Ford saddled 14 winners from 34 runners in points out of his Tarporley yard last season, and while a gremlin has affected the string this year, he is in no doubt about the virtues of experiencing racing's highs and lows from the pointing field.

"I do feel you learn more doing it this way than by being an assistant trainer or through being born with a silver spoon in your mouth," he said. "Assuming we're granted a licence, we're looking forward to giving it a crack - and if it fails we can always come back to training pointers."

Whatever Ford's fate, he, Dartnall and Jackson have proved themselves and so have their horses. Pointers take note.

Dartnall: fine record



Lannakaran provides Tony McCoy with the first leg of a double in the Beagles Novices' Hurdle at Chepstow yesterday.

only chance to break the record, in the concluding National Hunt flat race, disappeared in the home straight as his mount, Alie Egan, faded three furlongs from home.

"I had my first day off this season on Monday, and have been very lucky to steer clear of all injuries and suspensions since the season started - touch wood," McCoy said.

of reaching 300 winners before the end of the season, he replied: "Obviously I am going to set new figures unless something happens, but 300 winners in a season? I have got more chance of flying to the moon!"

With five rides at Ludlow today, McCoy is confident that he will break the record. "I should do it in the first race, as Doctor has a winning chance."

THUNDERER

- 2.20 Balfes 3.50 Capenwray 2.50 Hapton Duke 4.20 Sordal Of Kashmir

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.50 CAPEWRAY. Carl Evans: 4.20 Apertura King.

GOING GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

TONE JACKPOT MEETING

2.20 ROBERT WEBB TRAVEL NOVICES SELLING HURDLE

- 101 3090 BALLOS 20 (B & T) Selling 11-11-97 W M Jones 5-11-2 A Thornton 101

2.50 AXWORTHYS PRINT AND DESIGN HANDICAP HURDLE

- 101 45-2800 CUMMINS 7 (B & T) Selling 11-11-97 L Plover 7 105

3.20 HEAVYWEIGHT BROWNIE CHALLENGE CUP NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

- 101 697212 SAKON DUNE 10 (B & T) Selling 11-11-97 M R Weger 7 100

FORM FOCUS

Staten Duke neck 2nd of 8 to Ballyharry Lad in handicap chase at Hampton (20, good) with Ballyharry (9th better off) 2nd 200. Treadwell 4th of 10 to Hooded Hawk in novice handicap chase at Hampton (20, good) with Hooded Hawk (2nd better off) 2nd 200. Treadwell 4th of 10 to Hooded Hawk in novice handicap chase at Hampton (20, good) with Hooded Hawk (2nd better off) 2nd 200.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Chepstow

- 2.00 (2m 110yd) 1. Lannakaran (A P McCoy, 6-4 win), 2. Supreme Gem (D J O'Connell, 11-10), 3. New Hero (D J O'Connell, 11-10), 4. Son Of Archer (M J O'Connell, 11-10), 5. D J O'Connell, 11-10, 6. D J O'Connell, 11-10, 7. D J O'Connell, 11-10, 8. D J O'Connell, 11-10, 9. D J O'Connell, 11-10, 10. D J O'Connell, 11-10.

Fontwell

- 3.30 (2m 110yd) 1. Clontarf (C J O'Connell, 11-10), 2. Clontarf (C J O'Connell, 11-10), 3. Clontarf (C J O'Connell, 11-10), 4. Clontarf (C J O'Connell, 11-10), 5. Clontarf (C J O'Connell, 11-10), 6. Clontarf (C J O'Connell, 11-10), 7. Clontarf (C J O'Connell, 11-10), 8. Clontarf (C J O'Connell, 11-10), 9. Clontarf (C J O'Connell, 11-10), 10. Clontarf (C J O'Connell, 11-10).

Towcester

- 2.00 (2m 110yd) 1. Lannakaran (A P McCoy, 6-4 win), 2. Supreme Gem (D J O'Connell, 11-10), 3. New Hero (D J O'Connell, 11-10), 4. Son Of Archer (M J O'Connell, 11-10), 5. D J O'Connell, 11-10, 6. D J O'Connell, 11-10, 7. D J O'Connell, 11-10, 8. D J O'Connell, 11-10, 9. D J O'Connell, 11-10, 10. D J O'Connell, 11-10.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-RACE CARD

101 113143 6000 TIMES 13 (B.F.A.S.) (M D Robinson) 9 Hat 12-0 ... W Wood 7 85

3.50 AXWORTHYS LTD HANDICAP CHASE

- 401 311634 LANCE ARMSTRONG 28 (C.D.S.) (D Pester) 6 McQuinn 8-10-9 W Marston 100

4.20 ROBERT WEBB TRAVEL OPEN HUNTERS CHASE

- 101 094802 BEAU BABILLARD 10 (B & T) Selling 11-11-97 M J Young 7 107

4.50 ROBERT WEBB TRAVEL HANDICAP HURDLE

- 101 154480 CUNDON BULLDOZER 10 (B & T) Selling 11-11-97 M J Young 7 107

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Table with columns: TRANSNERS, WINS, COURSE, JOCKEYS, WINNERS, RATES, %.

Richard Evans

Nap: Goldwyn (40/Exeter) Goldwyn needed his recent seasonal reappearance at Chepstow after a year's absence, but is a fairly handily placed on this best winning season ever spring a surprise to the bookies.

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LUDLOW

THUNDERER 2.00 Doctor, 2.30 Bold Statement, 3.00 Flowing Fortune, 3.30 Oakmont, 4.00 PHILATELIC (nap), 4.30 Cabin Hill, 5.00 Alta.

GOING GOOD SIS

2.00 SEFTON CLAIMING HURDLE

- 1 5341 DOCTOR 19 (B.S.) (M Pester) 11-10 A P McCoy 100

2.30 ASTON MUNSLOW NOVICES CHASE

- 1 023P A WISE TO ORDER 13 (M Pester) 7-11-97 K Hannon 7 107

3.00 BUNDY EUROPE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

- 1 01 SKELETON 20 (B & T) Selling 11-11-97 C Lyne 50

3.30 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP HURDLE

- 1 1032 MINDS 10 (B.F.A.S.) (M D Robinson) 9 Hat 12-0 ... W Wood 7 85

GOING GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.10 GRAFTON AMATEUR RIDERS SELLING HURDLE

- 1 1P- FEARLESS WINGER 46 (B & T) Selling 11-11-97 M J Young 7 107

2.40 WOODEN NOVICES CHASE

- 1 515 WAYNERS WAY 6 (B & T) Selling 11-11-97 M J Young 7 107

3.10 LITCHBOROUGH HANDICAP HURDLE

- 1 5143 FIVE FLASZ 20 (B & T) Selling 11-11-97 M J Young 7 107

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4.00 BUNDY UK HANDICAP CHASE

- 1 4P12 HAND MOVEN 20 (B & T) Selling 11-11-97 M J Young 7 107

4.30 MAGNUS-ALLCROFT MEMORIAL TROPHY HUNTERS CHASE

- 1 456P KING OF SHADOWS 40 (B & T) Selling 11-11-97 M J Young 7 107

5.00 LUDLOW STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

- 1 10 WESTFIELD MIST 10 (B & T) Selling 11-11-97 M J Young 7 107

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Table with columns: TRANSNERS, WINS, COURSE, JOCKEYS, WINNERS, RATES, %.

3.40 FARTHINGSTONE HANDICAP CHASE

- 1 5172 MAMMAM 13 (B & T) Selling 11-11-97 M J Young 7 107

4.10 BRADEN NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

- 1 1646 GUEST ALLIANCE 47 (B & T) Selling 11-11-97 M J Young 7 107

4.40 EMPRESS ELIZABETH OF AUSTRIA OPEN HUNTERS CHASE

- 1 111 ANASTAR 13 (B & T) Selling 11-11-97 M J Young 7 107

5.10 GRIMSCLIFF NATIONAL HUNTS NOVICES HURDLE

- 1 1P14 FOLD RIDGE 41 (B & T) Selling 11-11-97 M J Young 7 107

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Tollett set for return to league

RUGBY LEAGUE: Tulsen Tollett, who switched codes with Harlequins last year, is likely to make a surprise return for London Broncos in the Silk Cup Challenge Cup semi-final against Wigan Warriors at Huddersfield on Sunday. His appearance at stand-off half, rather than in Harlequins' Allied Dunbar Premiership match at home to Gloucester the same day, could be the prelude to him rejoining the Broncos permanently.

RUGBY UNION: Cheltenham beat Trent

Nottingham, in the final of the festival competition - the tournament for schools which play only one term of rugby each year at the Rosslyn Park Sports Ground. Superior pace and power were the foundation of Cheltenham's convincing 29-17 victory with Simon Danielli, the England Under-18 wing, completing an impressive hat-trick. Toki Adebayo, the younger brother of the Bath and England wing, Adebayo Adebayo, scored two tries.

NETBALL: Naomi Siddall, who gave up the chance of a place in Cambridge's women's Boat Race crew, and Tracy Bartram, who has returned after recovering from an ankle stress fracture, have both been included in the England squad that left for a two-week tour of Malaysia and Australia last night.

FIXTURES

Kick-off: 7.30 unless stated. International matches: Czech Republic v Ireland (Prague, 4.0), Northern Ireland v Slovakia (Belfast, 4.0), Scotland v Denmark (Aberdeen, 8.0), Wales v England (at the Wembley Stadium, 8.0).

Wales v England (at the Wembley Stadium, 8.0). National League: Second division: Middlesbrough v Preston (7.45), Vauxhall Conference: Gateshead v Straybridge (7.45), Bell's Scottish League: Second division: Livingston v Queen of South (8.0).

DR MARTINEZ LEAGUE: Southern division: Dartford v Farnham; Haverhill v Southend; Northwich v Moor Green; UNIONBUD LEAGUE: Premier division: Boreham Wood v Hemel Hempstead; First division: Whitby v Scarborough; Second division: Boreham Wood v Hemel Hempstead.

AVON INSURANCE COOPERATION: First division: Stroud v Stroud; Second division: Stroud v Stroud; Wiltshire League: Premier division: Stroud v Stroud; Second division: Stroud v Stroud.

WILTSHIRE LEAGUE: Premier division: Stroud v Stroud; Second division: Stroud v Stroud; Wiltshire League: Premier division: Stroud v Stroud; Second division: Stroud v Stroud.

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FOOTBALL: ENGLAND COACH LIKELY TO TRY SHEARER AND OWEN PAIRING WHILE SCOTLAND GIVE FIRST START TO LEICESTER DEFENDER

# Hodde lingers in downbeat mode

# Brown backing Elliott to make advanced grace

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN BERNE

ACROSS the River Aare, on the opposite bank to the snow-dusted spires of the old town, there is a pit where bears have been baited since the 15th century. They still keep some captive there as a rather forlorn, ambling monument to the heritage of the city. For a bit of old-fashioned baiting, though, they have to look elsewhere.

Yesterday, in a first-floor salon at a hotel across the road from the railway station, Glenn Hoddle settled nearby into the old tradition by trussing himself up against a stake of his own making. He opened himself up to all sorts of pushing and prodding and turned what should have been

match-fitness again and snarling from some of the premature criticism aimed at his lack of league goals since his return from serious injury. The race for the other nine places begins tonight in the Wankdorf Stadium, but the England coach was hardly in the mood to fire the starter's pistol.

Despite the plague of injuries he has suffered this week and the undoubted havoc it has wrought upon his plans, the level of Hoddle's melancholy took most observers by surprise.

Although Brazil have well-publicised problems of their own, the England coach suggested his side were "motorways behind them" in terms of their preparation. "We are swimming against the tide in that sense," he said. "I would like to play what I consider my starting side before the tournament begins. I might even have done it here tomorrow, but of course that will not now be possible."

"I am at the stage where I have not got any more time. I wanted to use the two games we have scheduled for Morocco at the end of May to play the starting line-up and get some structure in, but I am not sure if I am going to get that opportunity. It is getting late in the day. The way we are going, some of them will need the Morocco tournament to prove their fitness."

Somehow, Hoddle seems to feel almost as if he is being persecuted by the injury situation that has afflicted him. Like others before him, it is the one aspect of the England job that seems to cause him more frustration than any other. It is the recurring problems of Seaman, Adams and Paul Gascoigne that are causing him particular concern and dragging his morale down.

Worse, though, was to follow. Hoddle has already aimed one burst of clumsy criticism at Michael Owen, the young Liverpool forward, in a well-intentioned but misguided attempt to keep his feet



Shearer and Sheringham enjoy a game of head tennis in the snow on the eve of England's game with Switzerland

on the ground and lift some of the expectation from his shoulders. Yesterday, he did it again.

The last time, he was forced to deny the comments he made about off-the-field problems that he said Owen might be experiencing. This, too, may be another statement that will need qualification. It is unlikely that Hoddle meant criticism of the forward who is likely to partner Shearer tonight, but that is not the way some interpreted his words.

Hoddle, seemingly attempting some circuitous praise of Owen, who he hinted he was to use as an explosive substitute, suddenly suggested that the teenager, who once scored 92 goals in a single schoolboy season and broke records set by Ian Rush,

was not a natural goalscorer. "I think when you create as much as Michael does, it is hard to be a born goalscorer," Hoddle said.

Taken aback, someone suggested that Owen had the potential to become the country's best natural goalscorer

since Jimmy Greaves. "Let's wait and see who's right," Hoddle said. "To emphasise just how out of step Hoddle's strictures were with the thinking of the rest of the football world, Gilbert Gress, the Switzerland coach, lavished extravagant

praise on Owen. "He can be the player of the future, not only for England but for the world," Gress said.

His team is likely to include two FA Caring Premiership sides, Stephane Henchoz, of Blackburn Rovers, and Ramon Vega, of Tottenham Hotspur, as well as Ciriacu Sfzora, the accomplished Kaiserslautern midfielder, player, and Stephane Chapuisat, who is leading Borussia Dortmund's attempt to retain the European Cup.

With Teddy Sheringham exhausted from his club commitments, the match is likely to provide Shearer and Owen with their first opportunity to start together. What price the Liverpool forward to score a born goalscorer's goal and cast Hoddle back into the pit?

## HODDLE'S SQUAD TAKES SHAPE FOR FRANCE

ENGLAND (probable, 3-5-2): T Flowers (Blackburn Rovers), M Keown (Aston Villa), G Southgate (Aston Villa) - S McKean (Liverpool), D Batty (Newcastle United), P Ince (Liverpool), P Maroon (Middlesbrough), A Hinshelwood (Sheff Wed), A Shearer (Newcastle United), M Owen (Liverpool)

SWITZERLAND (probable, 3-4-3): J Camberg (Nuremberg), R Vega (Tottenham Hotspur), M Yakin (VfB Stuttgart), S Henchoz (Blackburn Rovers), J Vogel (Graz), R Wicky (Wanderers), C Storz (Kaiserslautern), P Miller (Spartan), D Sesa (Spartan), M Gress (Graz), S Chapuisat (Borussia Dortmund)

## McMenemy fights enemy within

BY DAVID MADDOCK

AS Lawrie McMenemy prepares to send out the first team under his charge as Northern Ireland manager, he knows it will take more than victory over Slovakia at Windsor Park tonight to win over the Ulstermen who reacted with incredulity and vitriol at his appointment six weeks ago.

McMenemy was the surprise choice of the Irish Football Association (IFA) to succeed Bryan Hamilton as international manager. Surprise because he is 61 and has been out of the game for ten months; a bigger surprise is that he is the first non-Ulsterman to be appointed.

Outside Ireland, there is little understanding of the reaction to this move. In England, an analogy has been drawn between "Big Mac" and "Big Jack", an assumption that McMenemy will be greeted with the same sort of affection that canonised Jack Charlton across the border.

Not a bit of it. Even those sections of the local media that

## Brazil take strength from Zico's arrival for summit

FROM MATT DICKINSON IN STUTTGART

GLENN HODDLE said in Switzerland yesterday that Brazil are "motorways ahead" in terms of World Cup preparation, but on the streets of Rio de Janeiro, the England coach would have found himself in a minority of one. All is not as it seems in the world champions' camp.

Poor results in the recent Gold Cup tournament, even though only three first-team players were available, has stirred the pot of unrest in South America. As they prepare for their mouthwatering meeting with Germany tonight, the Brazilian federation hopes that the answer has just arrived in the shape of Zico.

The revered former No 10 began work as technical director on Monday, arriving here to bring some vibrancy to the management of Mario Zagallo, 69. Imposed on the ageing coach by Ricardo Teixeira, the federation president, Zico, 45, will sit on the bench tonight and his influence is already

## Bohinen to complete transfer to Derby

FROM RICHARD HOBSON

DERBY County expect to complete the signing of Lars Bohinen, the Norway midfielder, this morning. A fee of £1.5 million has been agreed with Blackburn Rovers and Bohinen held talks with Jim Smith, the Derby manager, last night.

Bohinen, 28, was granted a transfer request by Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn Rovers manager, because he sought regular first-team football in the build-up to the World Cup. Smith has struggled all season to find an ideal foil for Lee Carsley in the centre of midfield and turned to Bohinen after failing to sign Nico van Kerckhoven, the Belgium international, from Lierse. Bohinen, capped 47 times, joined Blackburn from Nottingham Forest for £700,000 2½ years ago.

John Gregory, the Aston Villa manager, is prepared to give Sasa Curcic the chance to resurrect his career at Villa Park if a proposed transfer to Crystal Palace does not go through before the deadline tomorrow. Ron Noades, the Palace chairman, said yesterday that a fee has yet to be agreed.

The Yugoslavia midfielder is training with Villa against a backdrop of his wedding to an Englishwoman to last week. While this should ensure he does not lose his work permit, Palace are anxious to seek clarification from the Department for Education and Employment.

Gregory said: "If everything goes pear-shaped, at least we have a player again. I am still willing to sell, but I am more than happy to have Sasa here."

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Not a bit of it. Even those sections of the local media that

are blindly loyal to the decisions of the IFA cannot disguise a scepticism bordering on contempt. It is not that he—along with his assistants, Joe Jordan and Pat Jennings—is a Catholic, running a team for which the support is 90 per cent Protestant. It is simply that he is English.

His tough stance is borne of a pleasure to be working again. He has spent the past ten months, since resigning as director of football at Southampton, enjoying a holiday, and sipping up his options.

"There have been offers, but I decided to wait until the new year and then this job came along," he said. "It's perfect. They have given me something with this magnificent job and I aim to give something back."

McMenemy started by attempting to bring in fresh blood—just as Charlton did—by scouring the English leagues for tenacious international links. So far, though, David Johnson, the Ipswich Town forward of Jamaican origin, has turned him down and Dele Adebola pulled out of the squad with an apparent back injury. There is talk, though, that the Lagos-born Birmingham City striker has been approached by Nigeria.

It leaves McMenemy with a squad short of eight players and, given the fact that Slovakia are ranked No 29 in the world and Northern Ireland No 98, a sizeable task.

NORTHERN IRELAND (probable, 4-2-2): A Fyfe (Blackburn Rovers), A Higgins (Newcastle United), C Hill (Northern Ireland), S Morrow (Queen's Park Rangers), J Whaley (Manchester City), K Gillespie (Newcastle United), S Larmann (West Ham United), Loran (Leicester City), M Higgins (Wolverhampton), J Down (Luton Town), J Quinn (West Bromwich Albion)

though, he threw in an aside about his background. Sitting next to Keith Gillespie, the Newcastle United winger, he said: "We're from similar backgrounds. If you built a bridge from here across the water, you would finish up in Newcastle."

His tough stance is borne of a pleasure to be working again. He has spent the past ten months, since resigning as director of football at Southampton, enjoying a holiday, and sipping up his options.

"There have been offers, but I decided to wait until the new year and then this job came along," he said. "It's perfect. They have given me something with this magnificent job and I aim to give something back."

McMenemy started by attempting to bring in fresh blood—just as Charlton did—by scouring the English leagues for tenacious international links. So far, though, David Johnson, the Ipswich Town forward of Jamaican origin, has turned him down and Dele Adebola pulled out of the squad with an apparent back injury. There is talk, though, that the Lagos-born Birmingham City striker has been approached by Nigeria.

It leaves McMenemy with a squad short of eight players and, given the fact that Slovakia are ranked No 29 in the world and Northern Ireland No 98, a sizeable task.

NORTHERN IRELAND (probable, 4-2-2): A Fyfe (Blackburn Rovers), A Higgins (Newcastle United), C Hill (Northern Ireland), S Morrow (Queen's Park Rangers), J Whaley (Manchester City), K Gillespie (Newcastle United), S Larmann (West Ham United), Loran (Leicester City), M Higgins (Wolverhampton), J Down (Luton Town), J Quinn (West Bromwich Albion)

# Leyton Orient fined by FA

BY DAVID MADDOCK

LEYTON Orient, of the Nationwide League third division, were fined by the FA yesterday for fielding three ineligible players in league matches. Orient also face the possibility of having points deducted.

Orient fielded Mark Warren, Simon Clark and Stuart Hicks in several mid-season matches, even though they should have been unavailable because of suspension.

Orient were summoned to an FA disciplinary hearing to face charges of misconduct yesterday. Their defence was

# Jamaica revel in Brazilian blend

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

IT WAS no ordinary training session, under the floodlights at Taft Well FC, the Welsh League village side from near Cardiff. The players chanted, clapped and held hands; the coach, a small, studious man, looked on; and the schoolchildren, excited and noisy, gazed in awe.

It was a bizarre scene, stripped of the convention usually associated with international squads and especially those engaged in preparations for the World Cup—but then Jamaica are no ordinary qualifiers for the closing stages of a competition that they declined to enter in 1986 because they could not afford the fee.

Since those days of penury, Jamaica has tapped into its rich footballing resources on the island, added a flavouring of Anglo-Caribbean spice from England and generated the romanticism that no tournament is complete without. A

# Bohinen to complete transfer to Derby

FROM RICHARD HOBSON

DERBY County expect to complete the signing of Lars Bohinen, the Norway midfielder, this morning. A fee of £1.5 million has been agreed with Blackburn Rovers and Bohinen held talks with Jim Smith, the Derby manager, last night.

Bohinen, 28, was granted a transfer request by Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn Rovers manager, because he sought regular first-team football in the build-up to the World Cup. Smith has struggled all season to find an ideal foil for Lee Carsley in the centre of midfield and turned to Bohinen after failing to sign Nico van Kerckhoven, the Belgium international, from Lierse. Bohinen, capped 47 times, joined Blackburn from Nottingham Forest for £700,000 2½ years ago.

John Gregory, the Aston Villa manager, is prepared to give Sasa Curcic the chance to resurrect his career at Villa Park if a proposed transfer to Crystal Palace does not go through before the deadline tomorrow. Ron Noades, the Palace chairman, said yesterday that a fee has yet to be agreed.

The Yugoslavia midfielder is training with Villa against a backdrop of his wedding to an Englishwoman to last week. While this should ensure he does not lose his work permit, Palace are anxious to seek clarification from the Department for Education and Employment.

Gregory said: "If everything goes pear-shaped, at least we have a player again. I am still willing to sell, but I am more than happy to have Sasa here."

**TEAMtalk**  
THE INDEPENDENT NEWS & REPORTS SERVICE  
0930 168+

WOLVES	LAST DITCH PLAYER BID	834
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**9/4 SWITZERLAND 11/5 DRAW ENGLAND Evs.**

Workshop Stadium, Kick-off 7.00pm, Live on Sky

CORRECT SCORE		NATIVE FAVOURITE		FIRST GOALSCORER	
SWISS	ENGLAND	SWISS	ENGLAND	7/2 SHEARER (E)	7/2 OWEN (E)
7/1	1-0	7/1	1-0	11/2 SHERINGHAM (E)	11/2 SHERINGHAM (E)
11/1	2-1	7/1	2-1	7/1 CHAPUISAT (S)	7/1 CHAPUISAT (S)
33/1	3-0	16/1	3-0	8/1 SESA (S)	8/1 SESA (S)
33/1	3-1	16/1	3-1	10/1 MERSON (E)	10/1 MERSON (E)
33/1	3-2	33/1	3-2	12/1 SFORZA (S)	12/1 SFORZA (S)
11/2	0-0	11/2	0-0	14/1 INCE (E)	14/1 INCE (E)
11/1	1-1	5/1	1-1	15/1 NO GOALSCORER	15/1 NO GOALSCORER
18/1	2-2	78/1	2-2		

Other scores on request. Odds valid if match not completed. Odds given are not correct. Own goals do not count.

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**WILLIAM HILL**

Bracken back in for title

Ireland to... of Lansdowne

**FOOTBALL**

Under-21 international

SCOTLAND (probable, 3-5-2): T Flowers (Blackburn Rovers), M Keown (Aston Villa), G Southgate (Aston Villa) - S McKean (Liverpool), D Batty (Newcastle United), P Ince (Liverpool), P Maroon (Middlesbrough), A Hinshelwood (Sheff Wed), A Shearer (Newcastle United), M Owen (Liverpool)

SWITZERLAND (probable, 3-4-3): J Camberg (Nuremberg), R Vega (Tottenham Hotspur), M Yakin (VfB Stuttgart), S Henchoz (Blackburn Rovers), J Vogel (Graz), R Wicky (Wanderers), C Storz (Kaiserslautern), P Miller (Spartan), D Sesa (Spartan), M Gress (Graz), S Chapuisat (Borussia Dortmund)

**BOWLS**

WORLD CUP - 77 DAYS TO GO - WHAT'S HAPPENING? 0930 168 1998

**CRICKET**

Second Test match

Zimbabwe v Pakistan

**GOLF**

WORLD CUP - 77 DAYS TO GO - WHAT'S HAPPENING? 0930 168 1998



RUGBY UNION

Bracken and Sella back in business for title showdown

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FOLK in Newcastle seldom turn to rugby union for sporting solace, but given the furore surrounding the football club, Rob Andrew's team have the opportunity of diverting attention by returning to the top of the Allied Dunbar Premiership next week. To do so, they must beat Saracens at Kingston Park in the first of the long-awaited meetings of the two clubs that have come to dominate the first division.

Sella's return allows Ryan Constable to revert to the wing at the expense of Richard Wallace, while Ben Sturman, the promising flanker, must be content with a place among the replacements. Alex Bennett, fit once more after a hamstring injury, joins Tony Diprose and Francois Pienaar in the back row.

Should they win, Saracens will open a four-point gap on Newcastle but will have played, two games more. "It's not make-or-break," Andrew, director of rugby at Newcastle, said. "We will still have nine games to play."

Newcastle expect a crowd approaching 7,000 for a match in which Jonathan Wilkinson, the young England squad fly half, could make a rare start. He trained yesterday at centre in the absence of a knee injury of Va'iga Tuigamala. Martin Shaw, who played for England last Friday, is also struggling with a knee injury, while Tony Underwood is ruled out of the wing.

Ireland to check safety of Lansdowne Road

THE Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) has pledged to investigate claims that the safety of supporters was compromised at Lansdowne Road during the Five Nations Championship match with Wales last Saturday (Mark Souster writes).

Philip Browne, the IRFU secretary, said concerns voiced by a Welsh supporter that people were in danger of being crushed during the half-time interval would be addressed. "We take all complaints seriously and if, after consultation, we feel we need to review aspects of safety at the ground, we will," Browne said.

Mel Davies, a Gwent businessman, claimed a "tragedy" had only narrowly been averted in an area between the West stand and the North terrace. A temporary metal barrier had almost given way as supporters en route to the lavatory met others coming in the opposite direction.

"About 200 people were involved and the crush was terrible," he said. "We were pinned up against a concrete wall with nowhere to go and with people pushing from behind. Some were trying to climb up over the wall and a lady next to me was screaming in pain."



King can revive Wasps

By DAVID HANDS

ALEX KING, whose season has been turned upside down by injury, may yet have a part to play in reviving the fortunes of Wasps. King, chosen to play fly half for England against Australia last November before a damaged knee forced his withdrawal, is poised to reclaim his club's No 10 shirt for the Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final against Sale at Loftus Road on Saturday.

He has played twice in recent midweek matches, with no ill effects, and his restoration would bring new life to the 1997 league champions, whose Allied Dunbar Premiership season has gone so badly wrong. A cup final appearance would go a long way towards retrieving the situation for Wasps, who, at present, stand third from the bottom of the first division.

Given the ease with which are a pit, we can't afford to throw money here and there. Injuries have hit Wasps this season in a way they never did last and it may be no coincidence that both they and Sale, their cup opponents, who have already won once this season at Loftus Road, have contributed significantly to England's cause: John Mitchell, the Sale director of rugby, is assistant coach to the senior side, while Robert Smith, the Wasps coach, together with Pat Fox (conditioning) and Phil Keith-Roach (scrummying), have all been involved with England and Ireland.

Devon pair surprise Coltart and partner

By MEL WEBB

WINNER of the Australasian order of merit and Qatar Masters champion he might be, but things did not go all to plan for Andrew Coltart yesterday on the opening day of the Sunningdale Four-somes, one of Britain's more endearingly eccentric tournaments.

Lewis wins points as Holyfield stalls

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT IN ATLANTIC CITY

LENNOX LEWIS is on the point of being recognised in the United States as a leading force in the world's heavyweight division. This is because of American boxing writers' dislike of Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield's decision to face Henry Akinwande instead of Lewis, the World Boxing Council champion. Having noted Akinwande's refusal to put up a fight against Lewis last July, Lewis's critics could soon be turning to him to save the heavyweight division from extinction.

It is imperative, therefore, that Lewis looks impressive here on Saturday, when he defends his title against Shannon Briggs of New York. If he can dispose of Briggs with the kind of authority that he showed against Andrew Golota, the American public would almost certainly put pressure on Holyfield to live up to his boast of wanting to retire as undisputed champion after beating Lewis, the only man of his era that he has not faced.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

Table with 2 columns: Match details and scores. Includes Under-21 international matches, Scotland vs Denmark, and various league fixtures.

RUGBY UNION

Table with 2 columns: Match details and scores. Includes Rosslyn Park, North West Counties League, and various club fixtures.

CRICKET

Table with 2 columns: Match details and scores. Includes Zimbabwe vs Pakistan, Hampshire vs Gloucestershire, and various county fixtures.

BOAT RACING

Table with 2 columns: Match details and scores. Includes various regatta events and club fixtures.

GOLF

Table with 2 columns: Match details and scores. Includes Sunningdale Four-somes and various club fixtures.

BOXING

Table with 2 columns: Match details and scores. Includes Lewis vs Briggs and various other bouts.

Second Test match

Table with 2 columns: Player names and statistics. Includes batting and bowling records for Zimbabwe vs Pakistan.

Second innings

Table with 2 columns: Player names and statistics. Includes batting and bowling records for Hampshire vs Gloucestershire.

Second round

Table with 2 columns: Player names and statistics. Includes various regatta events.

First round

Table with 2 columns: Player names and statistics. Includes various regatta events.

First round

Table with 2 columns: Player names and statistics. Includes various regatta events.

First round

Table with 2 columns: Player names and statistics. Includes various regatta events.

SUNNINGDALE FOUR-SOMES

Table with 2 columns: Player names and statistics. Includes scores for various foursome matches.

FOOTBALL

Table with 2 columns: Player names and statistics. Includes various league fixtures.

RUGBY UNION

Table with 2 columns: Player names and statistics. Includes various club fixtures.

CRICKET

Table with 2 columns: Player names and statistics. Includes various county fixtures.

BOAT RACING

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GOLF

Table with 2 columns: Player names and statistics. Includes various club fixtures.

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# Desperately seeking a new idea for a series

Like most men with demanding jobs, you've probably spent years trying to unravel the mystery of why so many of the women in your office tend to ovulate at the same time. So you, too, will be glad that a couple of American psychologists at the University of Chicago have found an answer. They demonstrated, according to the latest *British Medical Journal*, that collecting an apparently odourless compound from the armpits of women, and then persuading their colleagues to smell it, affects their time of ovulation and their next period. Something similar happens in the world of television: *bouts of mutual armpit-smiffing* by Alan Yentel and other TV bosses results in rival channels all producing costume dramas or docu-series at exactly the same time in the scheduling cycle. It is happening again with the subject

of how women in their thirties cope with juggling jobs, men, and a yearning for babies. Hot on the skirts of BBC's *Having It All* series, Channel 4's *Cutting Edge* last night brought us *Thirtysomething*, a glance at three single women in their thirties, all searching for the happiness that a partner and/or a baby might bring. At least one of them — Sarah Bradford, a 36-year-old, cello-playing, electronic engineer from Liverpool who runs her own business in London — feels trapped in a vicious circle: her longing for a man might be the very thing reducing her chances of finding one. "I get the feeling that I've got a big label on my head saying, 'I want a baby. Quick!'" There is that feeling that the men that you meet would automatically assume that's all you're after. And the trouble is, they're right!" Sarah eventually tries her luck with a lonely hearts column. Babs

## REVIEW



Joe Joseph

articulate thirtysomethings willing to tell their story. Lucy Sandys-Winsch's film left you feeling that maybe the problem lies less with the women than with the quality of the men available on the market. In their defence, men might argue back that they don't all behave as monotonously as Gazza or Liam Gallagher, which is true. But let's face it, almost no women do. Perhaps it's the commitment men

find tricky. Maybe the next thirtysomething documentary will focus on the problems that attractive young PR woman Sarah Macaulay is having in getting her dot-Scottish boyfriend Gordon to stop thinking of her as a photo opportunity and to consider her more as a mother of children they could have together — though, obviously, only when it is prudent to do so, and there is no inflationary risk. Annie Lindsell, who was clearly cut from very different cloth from many unmarried women, liked to joke that she wanted her grave-stone to read: "Died a Miss, but didn't miss much." And she didn't, even though she died far too young from motor neurone disease, and had devoted her final years not to world cruises and lounge-eating but to waging a much-publicised courtroom battle for voluntary euthanasia. Even when half in death's maw,

Lindsell fazed with more life than most people manage who have several healthy decades ahead of them. Desmond Wilcox's film last night, *Fighting For Dignity* (ITV), was assembling the troops for the next stage in the campaign for people's right to die with dignity. But it drew most of its emotional punch from the vibrant personality of Lindsell, a woman who either never felt self-pity, or else never wallowed in it. "I've never thought of looking at things on the black side," she said. And once she realised she was going to die, she decided she'd make the best of that, too: "I would still love to live. But I don't want to die badly, either... I don't want to die in the way that I have seen other people die." She didn't, but the High Court last year made her case an exception rather than the rule. Others in similar straits still have to jump off

tall buildings if they want to spare their doctors or relatives a possible murder charge. Also still fazing with more life than most other sitcoms ever manage is *The Larry Sanders Show* (BBC2), which last night did its bit to explore the dilemmas facing single, female thirtysomethings by inviting Ellen Degeneres on to the show. It was Artie's idea. He told Larry that Ellen was "a lightning rod of sexual controversy" and it would boost Larry's limp ratings if he could get her to admit, live on TV, if she or her TV sitcom character "Ellen" was a lesbian. But the night before her guest spot, Ellen ends up in bed with Larry. Not only do these thirtysomething women not know how to make life easier on themselves, there is clearly so much international armpit-smiffing going on that they're all in a worldwide tizz at the same time.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (33632)
  - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (146338)
  - 9.00 Good Living Presented by Jane Asher (1) (8196113)
  - 9.25 Klyde (1) (2705800)
  - 10.05 Style Challenge (5690583)
  - 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (7827856)
  - 10.55 The Really Useful Show (1) (1424041)
  - 1.35 Real Rooms A kitchen-diner (825361)
  - 12.00 News (1) regional news and weather (825361)
  - 12.05pm Call My Bluff (8161616)
  - 12.35 Wipeout (2678800)
  - 1.00 News (1) and weather (86813)
  - 1.30 Regional News (1) (5435800)
  - 1.40 The Weather Show (8672698)
  - 1.45 Neighbours (1) (72681870)
  - 2.10 Inside (1) (4690629)
  - 3.00 Lion Country Lynette the prized cow is entered for the South West Dairy Show (421)
  - 3.30 Playdays (7745632) 3.50 ChuckleVision (7765456) 4.10 Get Out of My Back (1100038) 4.30 The Wild House, a new series (5587019) 5.00 Newsworld (1) (8605458) 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (8481629)
  - 5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (200093)
  - 6.00 Six O'Clock News (1) and weather (835)
  - 6.30 Regional News (1) (187)
  - 7.00 Junior Masterchef Young contestants from London and a recent emigrant to Australia cook Graeme Allan and Magenta De Vine judo (1) (8293)
  - 7.30 Tomorrow's World Jez Nelson reporting on the live Mauna Loa volcano in Hawaii. Last in series (1) (609)
  - 8.00 Doctors' Orders An elderly patient undergoes a mental assessment pioneered by Paul Slade's mother-in-law, Dr Evelyn Golding (1) (5941)
  - 8.45 The National Lottery Draw Hosted by Carol Smilie, with music from Louise (1) (876944)
  - 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (1) and weather (8632)
  - 9.30 The Thin Blue Line The officers look forward to policing Gasforth: FC's second-round match in the FA Cup (1) (1) (83309)
  - 9.59 National Lottery Update (1) (176108)
  - 10.00 Rough Justice Kirsty Walk presents a new series on possible miscarriages of justice, beginning with the re-evaluation of evidence which led to the conviction of three black men for the murderous M25 Gang assaults in 1988 (1) (791922) WALES: 10.00 The State. Profile of former Velvet Underground member John Cale (7632) 11.00 Rough Justice (731835) 11.55 An Officer and a Gentleman (229651) 1.55am News (229235) 1.55 BBC News 24
  - 10.55 An Officer and a Gentleman (1982) Romantic drama, with Richard Gere as a Navy recruit whose relationship with mill worker Debra Winger is forced onto the sidelines. Directed by Taylor Hackford (1) (82344274)
  - 12.55am Weather (8057862)
  - 1.00 BBC News 24

- BBC2**
- 6.10am The Palazzio Publico, Siena (3378274) 6.35 Made without Flaw? (1366477) 7.00 See Hear News (1) (774038) 7.15 Teletubbies (1) (5704729) 7.40 Captain Caveman (1) (5329203) 8.00 Record Breakers Gold (1) (1) (84125) 8.30 Postman Pat (8151309) 8.45 The Record (3730309) 9.10 Short Circuit (796106) 9.30 Job Bank (8519106) 9.45 Words and Pictures (9507361) 10.00 Teletubbies (89125) 10.30 Numbertime (7543403) 10.45 Watch (2583003) 11.00 Around Scotland (229458) 11.20 Job Bank (8640729) 11.40 Working It Out: Sorted! (4512699) 11.55 Hands Up! (962598) 12.10pm Science in Action (282545)
  - 12.30 Working Lunch (47187) 1.00 Dilly the Dinosaur (1) (2431899) 1.05 Denzation (1) (2430070) 1.10 The Leisure Hour (7212167) 2.10 Male or Break? (22658212) 2.40 News (1) (8826748) 2.45 Westminster (1) (282106) 3.55 News (1) (4597922)
  - 4.00 Change That (1) (4514698) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (4584458) 4.55 Esther: Single Fathers (9493339) WALES: 4.55pm Liffelife 5.05 Wildlife on Two 5.30-6.00 Home Front in the Garden
  - 5.25 Today's the Day (8718516)
  - 5.50 Liffelife (1) (822598)
  - 6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1) (1) (357303) WALES: 6.00 Young Musicians 6.50 Football: Wales v Jamaica 9.00 University Challenge 9.30 Modern Times 10.20 Dance for the Camera
  - 6.45 The O Zone Front Size (84003)
  - 7.05 Water Works (597545)
  - 7.10 BBC Young Musicians '98: String Players (118632)
  - 8.00 University Challenge Magdalen College, Oxford, v the University of Wales. (1) (3583)
  - 8.30 Home Front in the Garden Transforming a narrow overgrown plot into a dining terrace. Last in series (1) (209)
  - 9.00 **PHANG AND JODI KIDD** **Garnering Rich insight into the world of New York's generous millionaires (1) (288146)**
  - 9.50 **Trouble at the Top: A Model M.D. Cameras follow Jonathan Phang, the newly appointed managing director of model agency IMG (1) (524187)**
  - 10.30 Newsworld (1) (584854)
  - 11.15 Jazz 606 (261551)
  - 11.55 Weather (895477)
  - 12.00 The Midnight Hour (57423)
  - 12.30am Learning Zone: A Tale of Four Cities (05713) 1.00 Glaciers (48236) 1.30 Babes: First Steps to Autonomy (80804) 2.00 The Science Collection (80655) 4.00 Cine Cinephiles (85555) 5.00 Business and Training (9468404) 5.45 Biological Barriers (11713)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (4440106)
  - 9.25 This Morning (1) (8820038)
  - 9.30 Vanessa (1) (5367670)
  - 10.10 This Morning (1) (89700187)
  - 12.20pm Regional News (8262564)
  - 12.30 News (1) and weather (87941)
  - 1.00 Shortland Street (31869)
  - 1.30 Home and Away (1) (86812)
  - 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show: Abandoned at the Altar (1) (5010108)
  - 2.45 Wattle Hick Wery is joined by Geynor Geyer from Coronation Street and Les Murray from the band Let Loose (1) (254545)
  - 3.15 News (1) (1386293)
  - 3.20 Regional News and weather (1383106)
  - 3.25 Tots TV (1373729) 3.35 The Blobs (7088925) 3.45 Paddington Bear (1074062) 3.50 Kipper (1) (2826667) 4.00 Oscar and Friends (1800011) 4.05 The Wombles (1953019) 4.20 Woolf (1) (1804000) 4.45 How Goes 2 (1) (5501696)
  - 5.10 WALES: Primetime Diary (1) (2540308)
  - 5.10 Van Cais Cook — The Best of China (540 News (1) and weather (920187)
  - 6.00 Home and Away (1) (1) (358354)
  - 6.25 Regional Weather (94922)
  - 6.30 Regional News (583)
  - 7.00 Emmerdale Will discovers a shocking and disturbing secret about his mother (1) (1361)
  - 7.30 Coronation Street Jon exclaims himself in court (1) (707)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
  - 1.00pm A Country Practice (31899)
  - 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (1967496)
  - 3.40-3.45 The Blobs (4807191)
  - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2543039)
  - 6.25-7.00 Central News (535030)
  - 11.40 Crime Stalker (374899)
  - 2.45am If I Were You (24775)
  - 4.15 Central Jobfinder '98 (3638171)
  - 5.20 Asian Eye (1407084)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (8254545)
  - 1.00-1.30 Emmerdale (31899)
  - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2543039)
  - 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (42632)
  - 11.40 Anatomy of Disaster (374899)
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:
  - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2543039)
  - 6.00 Meridian Tonight (903)
  - 6.30-7.00 Streetwise (583)
  - 11.40 Highlander (374899)
  - 5.00am FreeScreen (22268)
- ANGLES**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (8266380)
  - 1.00-1.30 Surprise Chefs (31899)
  - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2543039)
  - 6.23 Anglia Weather (865651)
  - 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (535030)
  - 10.29 Anglia Air Watch (867106)
  - 11.40 Anatomy of Disaster (374899)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (50670)
  - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (29854)
  - 9.00 Schools' Using Museums (19816) 9.30 Good Health Guide to Eating, Drinking, Resting and Playing (1) (9504274) 9.45 Book Box (1) (9509729) 10.00 Stage Two Science (1) (8211361) 10.15 Ret-a-Tat! (8234212) 10.30 The Fresh Programme (1) (867729) 10.50 Stop Look Listen (2683361) 11.00 First Edition (936854) 11.15 The Mix (1) (9376477)
  - 11.30 Powerhouse (2835) 12.00 Sesame Street (22380) 12.30pm Light Lunch. Today's guest is the actress Kathy Burke (85477) 1.30 News to Watch (8253763)
  - 1.50 The Browning Version (1952, b/w) Film version of Terence Rattigan's one-act play. With Michael Redgrave and Jean Kent. Directed by Anthony Asquith (1423564)
  - 3.30 Collectors' Lot Trench warfare perspectives, and memorabilia of the Kennedy (1) (861) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (496) 4.30 Countdown (1) (5571458) 4.55 Ricki Lake: Stop Smoking! Put Around Our Kids (1) (8679748) 5.30 Pet Rescue. An overweight Labrador embarks on a fitness regime (1) (632)
  - 6.00 Party of Five (1) (290800)
  - 6.50 Fresh Pop (167089)
  - 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (861212)
  - 7.55 Remember When? Joyce Ripley addresses her son, who went missing in 1986 (315187)
  - 8.00 Brookside: Max tries to persuade Sansannah to move to the threshold of a new career? (1) (8651)
  - 8.30 TV Dinners A healthy housewarming with sprouted beans, goat's cheese and mango slices; callaloo, a West Indian curry with spices from Trinidad on the menu; and a Caribbean inspired dinner in Hampstead, north London (1) (4458)
  - 9.00 ER: Sharp Relief Weaver questions Sympark's management practices. Ross plans a strike, and the serial rapist strikes again (1) (8093)

- CHANNEL 5**
- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.80775 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
  - 6.00am 5 News Early (8927212)
  - 7.00 WideWorld (1) (1) (5100498) 7.30 Mikhshak (8661293) 7.35 Wince's House (1) (4448496) 8.00 Havanao (1) (100000) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (1) (1126569)
  - 9.00 Express (5503835) 10.00 Woodland Tales (1) (1) (3126354) 10.30 Sunset Beach (1) (5294748) 11.10 Leaza (2080019)
  - 12.00 5 News (1) (1183187) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (8044835) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (5187677) 1.30 Sons and Daughters (8043106) 2.00 Beauty and the Beast (2776813) 3.00 Leo Per Cent Gold (8241570)
  - 3.30 The War Between Us (1995) with Shannon Lawson, Mekko Ouchi, Ian Tracey and Robert Wieden. A Japanese woman and an American become friends during the Second World War, despite the prejudices of others. Directed by Robert Lewis (2971477)
  - 5.20 Russell Grant's Postcards The astrologer marvels at the historic manor at Ashford (37189293)
  - 5.30 The Great Garden Game (1) (1) (7036699)
  - 6.00 100 Per Cent (702612)
  - 6.30 Family Affairs A chilling coincidence has Angus in a state of confusion; Duncan shows signs of settling down (1) (7017656)
  - 7.00 5 News (1) (3196421)
  - 7.30 Woodland Tales The ancient species of the woods of mid and southern England (1) (7013748)
  - 8.00 The Pops Chart With music from Robbie Williams and M People (3386629)
  - 8.30 Food Fight Comedy quiz with Andy Parsons, James Naylor and Sara Cox (8146926)
  - 9.00 Awake to Danger (1996) with Tori Spelling, Michael Gross and John Gutz. Thriller about a teenage girl who wakes after 18 months in a coma with the murder of her mother as her only memory. Directed by Michael Tuchner (80973816)
  - 10.50 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (5080090)
  - 11.30 Live and Dangerous Sports magazine with Todd Macdonald, the best of American sport, including basketball and at 2.00am baseball (2380361)
  - 5.30am 100 Per Cent (1) (5488572)

- VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes**
- The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to automatically record a programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (TM), Pluscode (TM) and Video Programme are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.
- SKY BOX OFFICE**
- SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (London 26) The Portrait of a Lady (1996)
- SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (London 60) The Critique (1989)
- SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (London 60) The English Patient (1996)
- SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (London 26) Beautiful Girls (1996)
- SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1**
- 8.00am Out of Time (1988) (5034570)
  - 7.40 The Karate Kid III (1989) (2173257)
  - 9.40 The Princess of Persia (1985) (5034570)
  - 10.00 The Untouchables (1987) (5034570)
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**Simon Barnes on how Newcastle lost their way**

# SPORT

**TENNIS 42**

**Kournikova makes regal progress in Lipton championships**



WEDNESDAY MARCH 25 1998

Middlesbrough may field new signing at Wembley after £3 million move from Rangers

## Cup final lure too strong for Gascoigne

By DAVID MADDOCK

PAUL GASCOIGNE could appear for Middlesbrough in the Coca-Cola Cup final on Sunday after ending a week of deliberation yesterday by agreeing to join them. The £3 million transfer is, according to Middlesbrough, "subject to a stringent medical in the morning" and, given Gascoigne's history of injuries, his move from Rangers is by no means a foregone conclusion — but should he satisfy the doctors today, another extraordinary chapter in his career beckons.

Wembley was the setting for Gascoigne's last domestic appearance for an English club, when he was taken from the field on a stretcher just minutes into the FA Cup Final between Tottenham Hotspur and Nottingham Forest seven years ago.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, indicated yesterday that it could also be the stage for a remarkable return to the English game, after a sojourn first in Italy, with Lazio, and then in Glasgow. The Erand mid-field player, 30, has started just one game for Rangers since Christmas, but his next appearance could be on Sunday against Chelsea.

"Gazza will be part of my thinking for Wembley, definitely," Robson said last night. "He only played 20 minutes for Rangers on Sunday and we will have a full medical to assess his fitness, but he will be in the squad."

"He is a quality player and he will bring something very different to the squad. Gazza is undoubtedly a player of international quality and we need that if we are to harbour serious ambitions of getting this club back where we want to be."

Gascoigne decided to join

Middlesbrough only after lengthy deliberation and at least two changes of mind. At one point, early yesterday afternoon, he informed Rangers that he wanted to stay with them, but, after further discussions with David Murray, the owner, and Walter Smith, the manager, he finally decided to return to the North East.

Among the factors to have helped him to decide was the persuasive influence of Paul Merson, his England colleague and a close friend. In the prospect of playing in the Coca-Cola Cup final was also strong. Gascoigne has signed a 3½-year contract and, provided that Middlesbrough go on to earn promotion from the Nationwide League first division, will be playing in

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the Premiership again next season.

Mel Stein, Gascoigne's adviser, said that the move represented "a dream come true for Paul". Stein explained that Gascoigne had been involved in talks with Rangers officials all afternoon. "It comes as an enormous wrench," he said. "Leaving is definitely the hardest decision of his career — he loved life in Glasgow, loved the club — but David Murray and Walter Smith have been very fair. They said he should do what he felt was right. When you think about it, it's a dream really, making his debut in a cup final."

That Middlesbrough are taking something of a risk is illustrated by his last appearance in a domestic game at

Wembley. The darker side of his nature was exposed that day and the player sustained an injury that was the first in a long line that make the medical examination today so uncertain. Gascoigne suffered ruptured knee ligaments when making a reckless challenge on Gary Charles, the Nottingham Forest defender.

Since then, Gascoigne has travelled across Europe and appeared in the European championship semi-final, but his behaviour has still attracted criticism.

To Steve Gibson, though, there is no risk attached to a transfer that could cost his club a total of £4 million should Gascoigne make a significant number of appearances. "The bottom line is that he is a quality player," the Middlesbrough chairman said. "There have been problems in the past, but Bryan Robson knows him well and he is the football judge at this club."

"Bryan knows what he is doing. We are looking for players of Paul's quality to take this club back up into the Premiership. Bryan wants to bring more like him here in the summer and we will find the resources to make that happen if we win promotion. We want to be successful and we have to sign quality players to do that."

Gascoigne has revealed that it was Merson's influence, plus his close relationship with Robson, that finally persuaded him to travel to Tees-side. Merson, the former Arsenal forward, has rejuvenated his career after making an impressive impact at the Riverside Stadium and he has been in touch with his friend constantly to suggest that the same thing could happen to him.

Gascoigne was in Glasgow last night and will travel to Middlesbrough today. Provided that he passes the medical, he hopes to then join his new team-mates for a training session.



Gascoigne gives photographers a smile as he trains with Rangers for the last time yesterday before agreeing to his transfer

## Noades denies making offer

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

RON NOADES, the Crystal Palace chairman, last night denied that his club had made a £3 million bid for Paul Gascoigne and insisted that they had only wanted the England midfielder player on loan until the end of the season.

"Palace have not made any sort of bid to acquire the player's services," Noades said. "I have seen the continuing reports of a £3 million bid that we apparently have made along with Middlesbrough and the player making up his mind as to whether he wishes to stay at Rangers or move on. From this club's point of view, we have not made an offer to Rangers for the player's services."

Noades, who appeared to contradict what Mark Goldberg — who is in the process of taking over the struggling FA Cup Premier club — had been saying, said: "In no way were we interested in paying a transfer fee for Gascoigne."

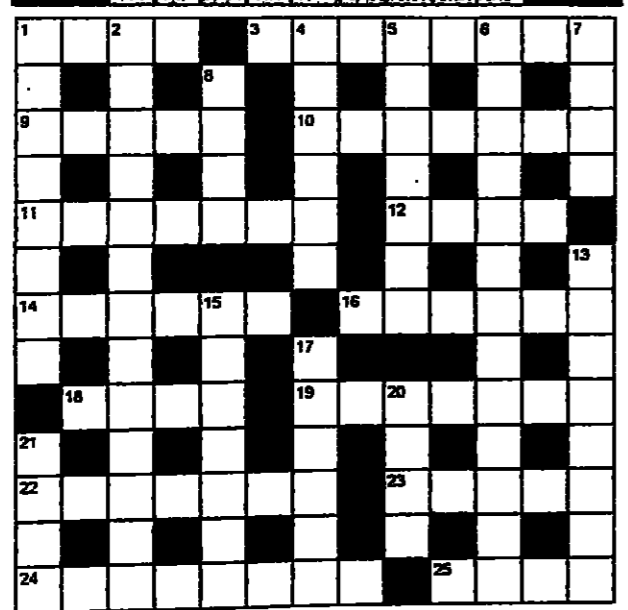
"We would certainly have been interested if he had been available for the rest of this season, but it was a commitment — a loan linked to a commitment to buy in the summer — then we wouldn't have been taking up the loan offer."

Middlesbrough will be Gascoigne's fifth club in a turbulent career that began with Newcastle United in 1983. After 106 appearances and 22 goals, he moved to Tottenham Hotspur for £2 million in 1988, the year in which he made his debut for England.

After damaging cruciate ligaments in a knee in the 1991 FA Cup Final against Nottingham Forest, Gascoigne was out of football for 16 months, delaying a £5.5 million transfer to Lazio, the Italian club. After further injuries disrupted his club and international career, Gascoigne moved to Rangers for £4.5 million, where he has helped the Glasgow club to their two most recent Scottish League championships.

Now, he will return to the North East and follow Juninho, Emerson, Fabrizio Ravanelli and Paul Merson as the latest high-profile arrival at the Riverside Stadium.

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1362

- ACROSS**
- Domed church recess (4)
  - Encode (transmission); hurry awkwardly (8)
  - The same again (5)
  - Tell (tale) (7)
  - Thin bow (7)
  - Horrid smell (4)
  - Cynic: an erratic action (6)
  - A mollusc; Walrus/Carpeteer victim (6)
  - Badly-behaved child (4)
  - Repetant sorrow (7)
  - Exert magnetic influence on (7)
  - Outlandish (5)
  - Allergic complaint: Coward piece (3,5)
  - Hideout (4)
- DOWN**
- Cumulative; an extra put in (8)
  - Comfortably placed (7,6)
  - Incomprehensible piece (6)
  - Waste away (7)
  - (Session) generating ideas (13)
  - "These are pearls that were his —" (Tempest) (4)
  - A religious (4)
  - Amicable (8)
  - The struggle to get on (3,4)
  - Twist in agony (6)
  - (Grass) cut (4)
  - Some punctuation; hurry (4)
- SOLUTION TO NO 1361**
- ACROSS:** 1 Whopper 5 Envy 9 Leper 10 Parched 11 Je ne sais quoi 12 Sister 13 Switch 16 Propagandist 19 Optical 20 Waive 21 Trot 22 Carry on
- DOWN:** 1 Will 2 Ophelus 3 Perseverance 4 Repeat 6 Nebur 7 Yiddish 8 Grass widower 12 Support 14 Testify 15 Garlic 17 Outdo 18 Wean

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## Hussain-Thorpe partnership restores England dignity

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN ANTIGUA

ENGLAND have waited through a long and dramatic Test series for the engine-room of their batting to function at its best. On the final afternoon, it came good. Nasser Hussain and Graham Thorpe leading the side towards safety in the sixth Test match and dignity in the series with a partnership of impressive command.

Even a draw would be insufficient to persuade Michael Atherton that there was any future in remaining among the slings and arrows associated with the captaincy. Yet as he watched, his resignation already planned, there was the satisfaction of restored self-respect.

Relieved until after lunch by squally morning rain, England resumed still 200 runs short of avoiding an innings defeat and with the odds not obviously in their favour. Hussain and Thorpe were not to be parted, however, as they sought to avoid an entirely unrepresentative 3-1 defeat.

Hussain's first century of this series, and his sixth in Test cricket, was a timely restatement of qualities that were beginning to be doubted. He has found some unlucky ways to get out, some wasteful ways, holding his technique up to scrutiny, but at the last, he negotiated everything West Indies threw at him with character and composure. When he completed his first hundred against them with a scampered single, he celebrated with an explosion of relief that was easy to understand.

Thorpe, too, was at his best, picking off some overdone short-pitched bowling with élan and playing to his limitations, which are considerable, against spin. His tour has come good in the past fortnight; he probably wishes that the series still had weeks to run.

The contribution of this pair — and especially their ability to bat for long periods in a right-hand and left-hand partnership — was central to England's planning for the tour. They were two of the players David Lloyd calls his "bankers", but fulfilment of the hope has been a long time in coming, one of many reasons for England's failure to achieve what they might have done.

The morning rain was sudden and spectacular and England, deprived of potential victory by a day of freakish weather in Barbados, will have had no scruples about

enjoying it. Clearing skies allowed a start after lunch and, technically, left West Indies 75 overs to take the remaining seven wickets. With the new ball available, it was easy to envisage them needing far fewer, but that was to underestimate both the docility of the pitch and the tenacity of Hussain and Thorpe.

Brian Lara, who had used his spinners enthusiastically on Monday, experimented with four more overs of Hooper and Ramnarine before summoning Ambrose and Rose to share the new ball. Walsh's demotion seemed curious, but his subsequent, uninspired spell spoke of a bowler with nothing left to give.

Ambrose, by contrast, still bounced in with the joy of a man who knows that he can bank on another year's Test fees. For once, however, he did not use the new ball wisely,

ignoring the probing, wicket-taking length from which he had hardly deviated all series. Indeed, West Indies were working to a misguided, one-dimensional plan as Rose, too, bounced both batsmen furiously.

Both love to hook, but with the bounce true they generally hooked soberly and safely. Not quite always, though. One outcome of the straining to pepper the middle of the pitch was a preponderance of no-balls, from one of which Hussain aimed a blind hook at Rose and was dropped by Walsh at square-leg. The evidence suggested neither batsman nor fielder had heard the call.

Whenever he did pitch the ball up, Ambrose was still the likeliest wicket-taker. In his second over, with seven men predatory around the bat, he found the edge of Thorpe's bat and the ball was no more than an inch from carrying to first slip, where Lara acknowledged the half-volley before leaving the field for treatment to a sore finger.

Hussain also lived dangerously once more, riskily curving Ambrose over the slips for four, but soon both men were back in control. For a time, the bowling was so predictable that they could almost prepare to pull or duck every ball, and they did so with relish.

The diligence of the stand was established on the fourth evening, when 36 overs together brought them only 46 runs. Hussain came earlier now, though, and the century partnership was recorded in 196 minutes, just before Lara decided to shelve his aerial bombardment and return to spin.

### SCOREBOARD FROM ANTIGUA

ENGLAND: First Innings 127 (0) Ramnarine 4 for 25

Second Innings

M A Atherton lbw b Ambrose	13
A J Stewart c Wallace b Hooper	79
(171m, 132 balls, 9 fours)	
M A Boucher c Murray b Ambrose	0
(8m, 6 balls)	
N Hussain not out	102
(258m, 300 balls, 14 fours)	
G P Thorpe not out	61
(256m, 222 balls, 4 fours)	
Extras (D 6, lb 3, nb 11)	20
Total (8 wickets, 114 overs, 428m)	275

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45 (Stewart 29, 2-49 (Stewart 33), 3-127 (Hussain 31).

BOWLING: Walsh 25-6-71-0 (nb 2) 7-10; 4-0-12-0; 1-0-3-0; 3-1-6-0; 5-1-17-0; 5-3-4-0; 7-1-30-0; Ambrose 19-5-65-2 (nb 7) 3-10; 6-2-20-0; 4-1-11-2; 1-0-0-0; 9-2-25-0; Rose 11-2-38-0 (nb 4) 5-10; 2-0-6-0; 3-1-5-0; 2-1-10-0; 4-0-18-0; Ramnarine 32-10-53-0 (nb 3) 5-10; 1-0-2-0; 1-0-1-0; 18-5-38-0; 4-3-

1-0, 8-2-13-0; Hooper 27-13-38-1 (3) 3-10; 15-5-25-1; 8-7-44; 2-1-9-0.

WEST INDIES: First Innings 500 for 7 dec (C L Hooper 108 not out, C B Lenton 104, P A Wallace 92, B C Lara 89).

SCORING NOTES: Fifth day: Rain prevented play before lunch. Test 275-2 (114 overs, 428m); Hussain 102, Thorpe 61. Second new ball taken at 12:57pm; England 174-3 (83 overs).

Umpires: S A Bucknor and C J Michley (South Africa). Third Umpires: P Whyte. Match referee: B N Sarwan (Australia).

SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Kingston), Match drawn. Second Test (Port of Spain): West Indies won by three wickets. England won by three wickets. Fourth Test (Georgetown): West Indies won by 242 runs. Fifth Test (Bridgetown): Match drawn.

Compiled by Bill Frindall

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